

Gunfire hits home of Beed's son

ADEN (AP) — Police Monday arrested three suspects after the home of Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beed's son was hit with automatic weapons fire. Major Faisal Al Beed's son was hit with automatic weapons fire, which is headed by the police criminal investigation department, which is headed by the son, Adnan, identified the three suspects as military police from a barracks opposite the house. Police officials said Adnan's house was raked with intermittent fire, beginning at 03.00 a.m. (2300 GMT) as Adnan and his family slept inside. No injuries were reported. The attack damaged the exterior of the harbour-side villa, police said. The attack comes two weeks after a drive-by shooting targeting Mr. Beed's two younger sons, Nayef and Nawaf, as they were being driven home after midnight on Oct. 29. They were unharmed but their cousin Kamel Muhammad Abdul Hamid who was driving was killed. No arrests have been made in connection with that attack. Mr. Beed, the former president of South Yemen, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the former ruler of North Yemen, have been locked in a feud since the two Yemenis united in 1990. Mr. Beed claims 150 members of his Yemeni Socialist Party, which ruled South Yemen, have been killed in assassinations by members of the armed forces.

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Troops leave for Croatia

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Armed Forces Monday dispatched another batch of Jordanian peacekeeping forces to Croatia. The forces were seen off in a ceremony held at the Royal Military College and attended by Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff General Abdul Hafez Miral Ka'abneh.

Juppe due here on Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is due in Amman on Thursday for a brief visit during which he will discuss the situation and trends in the Middle East peace process as well as the bilateral relations.

Kuwait to carry out execution — paper

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will hang a man for murder Tuesday in its second execution since the 1991 Gulf war, a newspaper reported. "A sentence of execution by hanging will be carried out on non-Kuwaiti killer Kamel M.T. tomorrow morning," said Al Anba newspaper. The term "non-Kuwaiti" in the Kuwaiti media normally refers to a member of the emirate's so-called stateless Arab community. The emirate's two million population includes up to 100,000 stateless Arabs. The paper said Kamel M.T. shot a man and burned his body in a ditch in the desert in April 1991. "The killer claimed during the investigations that he killed the victim because the deceased married a lady in a non-Islamic manner," the paper said without elaborating. It did not give the nationality of the victim.

Hizbollah: No links to Somali factions

BEIRUT (R) — The Hizbollah (Party of God) in Lebanon Monday dismissed suggestions that some of its members could be planning to launch car-bomb attacks against U.S. and U.N. forces in Somalia. "The resistance to these forces is a Somali resistance driven by nationalistic motives especially after the Americans revealed their true aggressive intentions," it said in a statement. U.S. officials in Mogadishu said Hizbollah members from Lebanon or Iran had arrived in Mogadishu and could be planning car-bomb attacks (see page 10).

Iran warns France

NICOSIA (AP) — French-Iranian relations will suffer unless France reverses a decision to grant asylum to a leading Iranian opposition leader, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Monday. In an interview with the Tehran Times, Mr. Velayati said that France's decision to grant asylum to Maryam Rajavi "has an impact on Iran-France" relations. "I hope that French officials will revise their policy on the terrorists before Tehran-Paris relations become more tense," the Times quoted Mr. Velayati as saying.

Ekuus rules out concessions to Iraq

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Security Council is unlikely to lift sanctions against Iraq in the immediate future despite progress in negotiating its weapons of mass destruction, U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekuus said in an interview published Monday. Iraq had rejected a \$1.6 billion oil export deal with the United Nations and it was now seeking a complete removal of the embargo, Mr. Ekuus said. "But this is a note possibility because Iraq must abide by all Security Council resolutions, especially accepting a long-term inspection of its capabilities and demarcation of borders with Kuwait," he told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej.

Israel, PLO resume talks amid secrecy

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) resumed talks on Monday on an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

A PLO official said the talks were going on at a secret Cairo venue.

The Israeli embassy, the PLO mission and Egypt's Foreign Ministry all refused to say whether the meeting had started. But the official, who requested anonymity, said in late afternoon that the sixth round of talks had been going on for more than two hours. Diplomats said the negotiators, led by PLO strategist Nabil Shaath and Israeli Major-General Amnon Shuhak, would be trying to define "Jericho" and agree how many Israeli troops can remain in Gaza to protect 3,000 Jewish settlers.

The two sides are struggling to reach agreement in time for an Israeli withdrawal to start as scheduled on Dec. 13. They are holding the talks in secret to avoid the media, which they complain have embarrassed both sides by presenting compromises as concessions. Earlier rounds were held in the small Egyptian resort of Taba, where it was impossible to hide from reporters.

Dr. Shaath told Reuters be-

fore the meeting: "The talks are a continuation of what we have started last week. We will discuss security arrangements and the Israeli troops withdrawal to meet the Dec. 13 deadline."

A diplomat close to the talks said: "The same questions are on the table," defining the borders of the Jericho area and how many soldiers and policemen from each side would deploy and along which roads.

The PLO wants Israel to withdraw from 340 to 360 square kilometres in and around Jericho, an area nearly the size of Gaza. Israel is thinking of just 25 square kilometres.

If that issue is controversial, the question of Israeli troops remaining in Gaza to protect 3,000 settlers nearly wrecked the talks two weeks ago. The PLO said Israel wanted to retain control of half of Gaza.

But a breakthrough came when Israel agreed to cut the number of soldiers it wanted to deploy.

The diplomat said Israel wanted to keep control of the main north-south highway through Gaza and to operate checkpoints on three other roads linking settlements to Israel.

"In this round the main debate will be over how many

troops and patrols will be stationed over these roads," he said. "They closed some of the gaps last week but they still need to finish the others."

The Gaza-Jericho withdrawal is the first phase of a five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, during which the PLO and Israel will negotiate a final peace settlement.

Dr. Shaath said the negotiations would continue in Cairo until agreement was reached on all security issues. They would then move back to Taba for subcommittees to discuss the transfer of authority from Israel to the Palestinians, electricity and transport.

The PLO negotiator said on Sunday the Palestinians would not sign the withdrawal plan on schedule unless Israel gave a written commitment to free thousands of Palestinian detainees.

"We want the Israeli side to release these prisoners as soon as possible. Believe me, in December this agreement will not be signed if we don't have a written commitment on the release of prisoners," Dr. Shaath told a news conference.

Before the accord can be signed Dec. 13, the two sides must also reach agreement on control of the crossing points between Gaza and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan.

Settler kills Arab after alleged attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Jewish settler shot dead a Palestinian who allegedly attacked him with an axe in the West Bank town of Hebron Monday, military officials said.

The incident provoked reprisals from settlers who stoned Palestinian cars provoking a road accident in which six people were hurt on the outskirts of Hebron. The incidents which left dozens of cars damaged were sparked by two Palestinians who left a settler seriously wounded in the head as he went to the Tomb of the Patriarchs, which is holy to Jews and Muslims.

Abraham Zarbiv, 40, and father of 10 children, drew his pistol and shot dead one of the attackers while the other hit him again and finally made off with the gun, according to reports.

The army launched a man-hunt and imposed a curfew but did not arrest stone-throwing settlers.

One of the axes bore the sign of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of

Palestine (PFLP), which opposes the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement, but the security forces were not certain the PFLP carried out the attack.

A telephone caller identifying himself as a PFLP member told AFP in Beirut that two members of the front carried out the attack, identifying the dead Palestinian as Mohammad Badawi Yarakan.

It was the first attack since the announcement Friday that five militants of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's own Fatah group had killed a settler on Oct. 29.

The announcement triggered a major crisis with Israel winning a new commitment from Mr. Arafat to halt attacks.

The pledge has kept talks on implementing the autonomy agreement on course and a new session opened later Monday in Cairo (see separate story).

Seven Israelis have been killed since the autonomy deal

Rabin, Aspin discuss weapons

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin held talks with Defence Secretary Les Aspin Monday on President Bill Clinton's promise to bolster Israeli security, including the sale of advanced U.S. warplanes.

As the two met at the Pentagon, U.S. defence officials told Reuters no final decision had been made on whether Israel will buy the F-15E, built by McDonnell Douglas Corp. and considered the world's most sophisticated ground attack jet.

Mr. Clinton said after meeting Mr. Rabin Friday that Washington would help improve Israeli security — including providing more warplanes, anti-missile defences and computer technology — to boost Israeli confidence en route to Middle East peace.

Mr. Clinton gave no details on warplane transfers, but no other country has been allowed to buy F-15Es. The United States agreed last year to sell 72 less-advanced F-15Xp (export) versions of the basic F-15 fighter to Saudi Arabia.

Washington currently provides Israel with \$1.8 billion in annual military aid and Mr. Clinton promised that the U.S. aid level, the highest to any foreign nation, would not be cut.

The F-15E jets cost more than \$15 million each. Syria has a powerful air force made up of hundreds of Soviet-built warplanes, including advanced MiG-29 fighter jets.

Israel now has more than 50 older models of the basic F-15. Its ground-attack capability is comprised chiefly of more than 150 U.S.-built F-16 jets bought before 1989 and another 60 that it is in the process of buying.

In Damascus, Syrian officials said Monday that Mr. Clinton had assured Syria the United States backs a comprehensive Middle East peace and said Secretary of State Warren Christopher would visit the region next month (see separate story).



Palestinian boys perform folkloric dances on a stage decorated with banners and pictures during festivities in the Gaza Strip marking the fifth anniversary of the declaration of the independence of the State of Palestine (AFP photo)

Results of elections and shape of House are factors in Senate make-up

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) ends its legal term on Nov. 22 and most observers agree that the outcome of last week's parliamentary elections would influence the composition of the 17th Senate, which is expected to be announced in the coming few days.

The Constitution stipulates that members of the Senate should be chosen from among former or present prime ministers or ministers, former ambassadors and ministers plenipotentiary, former speakers of the Lower House of Parliament, judges at the cessation and appeals courts, retired army officers of the rank of major general and above, deputies who were elected to the House at least twice and "persons who enjoy the confidence of the people through their services to the country and the nation."

Senators are appointed by His Majesty the King and can serve as ministers.

While no official confirmation could be obtained, most observers expect all former prime ministers and heads of the armed forces to be included in the new Senate. Accordingly, former prime ministers Bahjat Al Talhouh, Ahmad Al Lawzi, Mudar Badran and Ahmad Obeidat are expected to re-

main in the Senate, and Zeid Rifai, who is not serving in the current Senate, is expected to join the new Upper House.

The former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Fathi Abu Taleb, is also expected to be named as member of the 17th Senate and former commanders of the armed forces Habes Al Majali and Amer Khamash are expected to be reappointed as senators.

Observers also say that each of the eight governors in the Kingdom are expected to be represented by two senators.

Political and practical considerations, analysts say, will weigh heavily in choosing the remaining 24 members of the Upper House.

Former speaker of the house Abdul Latif Arabiyat, who failed in his bid for reelection, could be appointed to the Senate. The political background of Dr. Arabiyat, however, is expected to be taken into consideration in choosing other members of the Senate.

Dr. Arabiyat is a member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF). A decision to appoint him in the Senate will raise the question of whether political parties should be represented in the Upper House and whether deputies who could not get reelected should become senators.

Although most observers expect leaders of political

parties to be excluded from the Senate, they say the major political trends in the country, the liberals, conservatives and Islamists, will be represented. IAF Secretary General Ishak Al Farhan is not therefore expected to be reappointed to the Upper House.

Observers who support excluding members of political parties from the Senate say that the Lower House provides parties with the chance to become members of parliament through elections.

According to analysts, a decision to appoint Dr. Arabiyat in the Senate will set a precedent for including other former deputies who lost their bid for reelection in the Upper House. Considerations similar to the ones that made Dr. Arabiyat a possible Senate candidate could apply to other deputies who did not get reelected, observers say.

The birth of legal experts in the Lower House has made it imperative that the Upper House include senators with legal background in order to ensure that Parliament can effectively deal with the legislative part of its duties, according to observers who spoke to the Jordan Times.

Abdul Karim Al Dughni, Mahmoud Hweimel and Abdullah Akhu Rashed are the only deputies with legal training. Observers say the Senate would include legal

(Continued on page 3)

Christopher to visit Mideast next month

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher will go to the Middle East next month to try to mediate differences between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over their fragile agreement and Israel and Syria.

Mr. Christopher also will try to finalise an accord between Israel and Jordan.

The complex mission could determine the course of Middle East peace-making and test the Clinton administration's skill on another foreign policy front.

The State Department spokesman, Michael McCurry, announced Mr. Christopher's plan to go to the area. Officials said the trip probably would be scheduled for early December, just before the Dec. 13 deadline for Israel and the PLO to complete arrangements for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Syria said earlier Monday Mr. Christopher will tour the Middle East at the start of December in a bid to boost the Arab-Israeli peace process.

U.S. President Bill Clinton sent a message informing Syrian President Hafez Al Assad of Mr. Christopher's scheduled tour, the official news agency SANA said.

U.S. ambassador to Syria, Christopher Ross, transmitted the message via the Syrian foreign ministry, SANA said.

It covered the "American efforts to reach a comprehensive peace" in the Middle East, the agency said.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Assad spoke twice by telephone in September following the Israel-PLO peace agreement, which Syria said broke Arab solidarity.

Mr. Christopher last toured the Middle East in August, and the State Department's Middle East coordinator, Dennis Ross, visited the region last month to try to breathe new life into the stalled Syrian-Israeli talks.

Syria has demanded a pledge from Israel that it will withdraw completely from the Golan Heights while Israel wants a commitment from Syria for "total peace" with open borders and diplomatic ties before debating the scope of a withdrawal from the Heights.

Fateh agrees on pluralist, free-market state

TUNIS (Agencies) — The mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Monday the future Palestinian state would be based on pluralist democracy and a free-market economy.

Fateh's 107-strong Revolutionary Council endorsed the principles at a weekend meeting chaired by PLO and Fateh leader Yasser Arafat, the PLO news agency WAFA said.

The Fateh decision came ahead of economic talks between the PLO and Israel under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO peace agreement.

The two-day meeting at the Kleber conference centre in Paris beginning Tuesday will be the inaugural session of an economic committee established in the accord on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

Both sides said it would set a political framework for economic cooperation between the Jewish state and the new self-governing Palestinian authority.

The Israeli delegation, headed by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, includes defence ministry officials who have administered the occupied territories for 26 years as well as central bank aides and trade experts.

The Palestinian delegation will be led by PLO economics

chief Ahmad Kurea, appointed director-general of the Palestine Emergency Development and Reconstruction Agency (PEDRA) this month.

It will include several economists and businessmen from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

The talks are running in parallel with negotiations in Egypt on the Israeli military withdrawal from the territories, covering issues such as the definition of "Jericho" and the number of Israeli troops to remain in Gaza to protect settlers.

Israeli officials said they were ready to begin immediately discussing practical economic issues such as the tax system in the new self-governing territories, trade between Israel and the Palestinians and development projects.

But it was not clear whether the Palestinians would be ready. The talks were to have begun on Monday but were postponed at the PLO's request, apparently partly because of continuing differences in Tunis over PEDRA's structure and powers.

Mr. Arafat worried international aid donors and some Palestinian critics by appointing himself head of PEDRA's council — the main body re-

sponsible for economic and financial control of the territories.

Donors insisted at Nov. 5 talks at the World Bank office in Paris that the Palestinians ensure the necessary transparency and accountability to ensure a planned \$2 billion in aid over the next five years was spent rapidly and efficiently.

Palestinian sources said Mr. Kurea was trying to persuade Mr. Arafat to amend PEDRA's structure to make clear that day-to-day executive power would be in the hands of economic experts in the territories.

Environment body planned

A Palestinian body will be set up to tackle environmental problems in the occupied territories, a U.S. negotiator at multilateral Middle East talks said Monday.

The Middle East environment meeting opened in Cairo Monday and was to continue Tuesday.

Theodore Feifer, deputy head of the U.S. delegation, said the United States, the European Community, Russia and Japan wanted to discuss the establishment of such a body with the Palestinians.

It was the first time the United States and Russia had backed the idea, put forward

by the Palestinians at previous meetings.

Israel, which previously opposed the proposal, now says the authority could be set up under the peace deal signed in September.

"The time has come to delve into a project-oriented approach," said Israeli delegation leader Israel Peleg.

The Cairo meeting was focusing on pollution in the Gulf of Aqaba, desertification and an ecological plan for the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Feifer said the United States would sponsor the establishment of an Aqaba data survey and support Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the World Bank in establishing an authority to deal with potential problems in Aqaba.

"Since no one has the money to buy all the equipment needed, they must work together to have money and maximise effectiveness," Mr. Feifer added.

The head of the Egyptian delegation, Hager Al Islambuli, said the Arab states were insisting that the problem of nuclear waste in the region be tackled.

The United States, the European Community and Japan proposed training Palestinian experts for the new environment body, Mr. Islambuli said.

Israel must move before talks resume — Khaddam

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Israel must alter its stance if the stalled peace talks with Syria are to resume in Washington, Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam told foreign reporters on Sunday.

"Israel must reconsider its position in such a way that the Washington discussions can be resumed," he said, adding that the international community should pressure the Jewish state into changing.

"To date, we have not heard a single word from Israel saying it accepts a complete withdrawal from occupied Arab territories," Mr. Khaddam said, reiterating Syria's position on "total peace against total withdrawal" as well as the need for "comprehensive peace."

"The international community must pressure Israel so that it respects United Nations resolutions and the Madrid (peace conference) formula," he insisted.

The terms of reference at the October 1991 Madrid conference, the framework for the Washington talks, are based on the principle of the exchange of land for peace, along with

U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

"Advancement towards peace cannot be one-sided. The Arabs have moved more than enough. The Israeli party must move," Mr. Khaddam insisted.

No date has been set for the resumption of the Washington talks. Syria insists on maintaining the negotiations' bilateral framework in Washington, while Israel is seeking secret talks to break the current deadlock over the Golan Heights.

Syria has demanded a pledge from Israel that it will withdraw completely from the Golan Heights while Israel wants a commitment from Syria for "total peace" with open borders and diplomatic ties before debating the scope of a withdrawal from the Heights.

"If there is no serious progress on the part of the Israelis towards accepting a complete withdrawal from our occupied territories, it's hard to envisage a resumption of the negotiations since they are not an aim in themselves but only a means

to attaining a settlement," Mr. Khaddam said.

He added that in two years the negotiations had not resolved any problems.

"Nobody in the region wants war... but, of course, if the doors to peace are tightly shut, the region will once again face instability," he warned.

Earlier, Syrian newspapers slammed what they described as a U.S. "bias" towards Israel, which they said was demonstrated during Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington.

Following talks with Mr. Rabin in Washington Friday, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he had "renewed America's unshakable pledge to maintain and enhance Israel's qualitative security edge."

He also urged Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to give a clear green light to peace.

On Saturday, Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas said Israel was mistaken if it thought the Arabs could be forced into giving up their land and rights and accused it of trying to derail the peace process.



FESTIVITIES: Palestinian boys march with the fifth anniversary of the declaration of Palestinian flag in Arab East Jerusalem marking the Palestinian independence (AFP photo)

Hekmatyar forces free two Western journalists

KABUL (AFP) — Two foreign journalists captured one week ago in a combat zone east of Kabul were freed Monday.

New Zealander Terence White of Agence France-Presse and American John Jennings of the Associated Press were in good health although they had been roughed up by their captors. Mr. Jennings had a shrapnel wound to his left foot.

They were released from the Hezb-e-Islami headquarters of Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in Charasayab, 25 kilometres south of Kabul, where they had been taken Sunday from another Hezb-e-Islami base.

They returned to Kabul around midday Monday.

The two were captured Nov. 8 by Hezb-e-Islami forces near Tagab, 60 kilometres northeast of Kabul where the two main factions — Hezb-e-Islami and forces of former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud — have been fighting for two weeks.

They were on a press trip with a group of Mr. Masoud's forces when they were ambushed by Hezb-e-Islami forces three kilometres south of Tagab. During the shooting Mr. Jennings was hit by shrapnel in his left foot.

Both journalists were beaten after their capture by Hezb-e-Islami fighters who thought they were military advisers. Many Hezb-e-Islami people

believe French military advisers are helping Mr. Masoud's troops. The frontline fighters who beat them were smoking hashish.

The same night they were taken to a military base near the frontline from where they saw government planes raining cluster bombs all over the Tagab Valley.

On Tuesday they were taken further south to another Hezb-e-Islami base above Naghlu Dam where they were kept Wednesday through Saturday until Gulbuddin Hekmatyar sent a jeep for them on Sunday.

During an interview with the two journalists, Mr. Hekmatyar apologised for any rough treatment they had suffered and for the fact that they had been kept prisoners.

The two journalists have no explanation for their late release other than bad communications within the Hezb-e-Islami forces and also some statements by Radio Kabul trying to use them as a political tool against Hezb-e-Islami.

Mr. Hekmatyar told the journalists that both camps were trying to arrange a ceasefire. Heavy fighting has taken place between Masoud and Hekmatyar forces in the valley for two weeks. Mr. Hekmatyar has proposed that "an authorised judicial delegation should be constituted to examine all the issues between Hezb and its adversaries."

Yemen's 'Little Mogadishu' enjoys peace

SANAA (R) — Somali refugees fleeing anarchy and starvation are living together peacefully in camps in Yemen, avoiding the factional rivalries which tore their own country apart, a United Nations official said.

About 10,000 refugees from clans which are feuding in Somalia are living together in a southern Yemeni camp they have dubbed "Little Mogadishu", Taoufik Ouannes said.

"We have been able to maintain a very peaceful atmosphere despite the factions and the political problems," Mr. Ouannes, representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Yemen, told Reuters.

Mr. Ouannes said the refugees who fled to Yemen in packed boats in the summer of 1992 at the peak of Somalia's civil war were now in "very good condition."

The UNHCR, with a \$9.5 million budget for 1993, was providing various services to the refugees. The 10,000 Somali refugees in Aden, 45 kilometres from Aden, receive food, medicine, schooling and vocational training, Mr. Ouannes said.

Three wells have been built in the camp which has a school attended by 800 pupils and recreational facilities.

"They started to have a normal life," he said.

They are among the 60,000 refugees eager to go home once a settlement is reached in Somalia, he said.

Mr. Ouannes said 35,000 Somali refugees of Yemeni origin and those holding Yemeni passports were staying in slums near Aden.

The UNHCR is providing them with what it calls "one time assistance" including a school, dispensary and a plan to connect the area to the public water network, Mr. Ouannes said.

Yemen is not incurring any costs to host the refugees.

About 5,000 refugees are staying in Mukalla in the south. More than 1,000 of them receive food and the others shelter.

The rest of the refugees are staying in other areas including Aden and Sanaa.

Mr. Ouannes said more than half the refugees are from Mogadishu and the rest from coastal cities.

"All are eager to go back to their country," he said, but did not say when that would be.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Floods, storm damage 3,000 houses in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Storms and floods have damaged 3,000 houses in the town of Bandar-E-Anzali on Iran's Caspian Sea coast in the past three days, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Sunday. Heavy rain inundated the islands of Beheshti and Taleqani and winds up to 80 kilometres an hour damaged electricity networks. The sea has risen 63 centimetres in the three-day period. IRNA said rising Caspian Sea waters have engulfed 1,000 houses, washing away five, in the northern village of Tonekabon where three hundred homes have been evacuated. In Ramsar, 300 more homes are flooded and schools closed, it said. Iran said on Thursday that the storms and floods had killed four people.

Kurdish rebels release a Dutch hostage

ANKARA (AP) — Separatist Kurds released a Dutch national after keeping him hostage for a month, Turkish state television said on Sunday. The hostage, identified as Jean Martin Moss, was released late Saturday in the southeastern province of Bingol, about 800 kilometres from Ankara, the report said. Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas kidnapped Mr. Moss from a passenger bus on a highway near Bingol on Oct. 14. The PKK also claims to have been holding an American and a New Zealander for more than a month. The rebels held tourists from France, Italy, England, Australia and Germany for several weeks last summer. The PKK has been fighting for self-rule in the southeastern Turkey since 1984. Mr. Moss met with his father in Mr. Bingol, and they planned to fly to Ankara on Monday before heading home, the TV report said.

S. Arabia to lift embargo of South Africa

RIYADH (AP) — Commerce Minister Suleiman Sulaiman said the kingdom's trade embargo of South Africa will end soon. However, he did not say when Saudi ports would be opened to South African products in a speech Sunday night to the Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Saudi Arabia and neighbouring Gulf Arab countries have been gradually allowing visits from South African officials. Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates are already talking about trade and tourism cooperation with Pretoria. South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha is expected in Bahrain this week to open South Africa's first embassy in the oil region.

U.N. teams in Iran for chemical talks

DUBAI (R) — Two U.N. teams have visited Iran for talks on chemical weapons and a probe into their alleged use by Iraq, the official Iranian news agency said. A delegation led by United Nations Deputy Secretary General Ian Kenyan met the vice-chairman of the Iranian parliament's foreign policy commission, IRNA said late Sunday. IRNA quoted Mr. Kenyan, on a three-day visit ending Monday, as saying the U.N. would do its best to ensure that conventions banning chemical weapons were carried out by all nations throughout the world. It was not clear if this was a reference to Iran. A second U.N. team is in Tehran to probe reports that Iraqi government forces are using chemical weapons against civilians in a bid to win control of Iraq's southern marshes, IRNA said. "Over 5,000 marsh Arabs of Iraq who have sought refuge with the Islamic Republic (of Iran) say they are suffering from the effects of toxic chemical weapons deployed against them," the agency said. It added that the head of the U.N. team, John Scott, had asked to meet Iraqi who had fled to Iran.

Some Sudanese colleges ordered on vacation

KHARTOUM (AP) — Khartoum University is ordering some of its colleges on vacation after unrest erupted over charges that Islamic bloc candidates rigged student elections, a newspaper reported. Police arrested 17 students and used teargas to disperse a demonstration by independent students after election results were announced last Wednesday, the government daily Al Ingaz Al Watani said. Five students suffered teargas inhalation. The independent claimant brand by the Islamic bloc, which won all 40 seats at stake, the paper said. Vice Chancellor Mamoun Mohammad Ali Homaidda issued a statement Saturday saying that students from colleges which have completed exams were ordered to go on vacation, the daily said. But it quoted Mr. Homaidda as saying the university would not close under any circumstance. The daily did not say how many students were ordered on vacation. The student union at the university was closed last year because of rivalry between the Islamic bloc and independents. Sudan has increasingly imposed Islamic law since Omar Hassan Al Bashir took power in a bloodless coup four years ago. Al Ingaz Al Watani quoted Mr. Homaidda as saying he was held hostage and telephones were cut off in his office during last Wednesday's demonstration. Mr. Homaidda told the daily that he had evidence the demonstration was instigated from outside Sudan. The paper said Mr. Homaidda also ordered the new student union officers not to take their posts until the fraud charges were investigated.

Syria and Iran hold cooperation talks

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Defence Minister Major General Mustafa Tlas had talks on Sunday with the chief of Iran's National guard, Major General Mohsen Reza'i, on cooperation between their armies, officials said. Syria, which supported Iran during its long war with Iraq in the 1980s, has strong political ties with Tehran.

Iran holds war games in Gulf

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Revolutionary Guards militia and regular army are holding land and naval manoeuvres in the northern Gulf, Jomhuri Islami newspaper said Monday. The four-day exercise, code-named Victory-1, include maritime defence, destruction of mock enemy ships, and deployment of forces, it said. The operations began Sunday. The Iranian manoeuvres coincide with a joint American, British and French naval exercise which began in the Gulf Wednesday.

Clerides wants U.N. to quash breakaway state

ATHENS (AP) — Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides called on the Security Council Monday to end the partition of his war-divided island by dissolving the breakaway state in the Turkish-occupied north.

His call was made as he flew here for consultations with the Greek government on the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of the Turkish Cypriot state Nov. 15, 1983.

"This is a symbolic day marking the sad anniversary of the pseudo-state which was declared illegal and invalid by the U.N. Security Council," he told the Associated Press in an interview during his flight to Athens from Nicosia.

The breakaway state has only been recognised by Ankara.

Mr. Clerides said it was important that the Security Council should call on a step further than calling on all U.N. member states not to recognise the breakaway state.

"The Security Council should take appropriate action for its dissolution," Mr. Cler-

ides said without elaboration.

"I would have been happier if the Security Council had been more determined to defend legality in Cyprus over the past 10 years, since it itself branded the establishment of a breakaway state both illegal and invalid," he said.

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned since 1974 when Turkey seized its northern third in the wake of a brief coup by supporters of union with Greece.

The Security Council blames the Turkish side for the deadlock in the U.N.-sponsored negotiations between Mr. Clerides and Rauf Denktaş, the president of the breakaway state.

Mr. Denktaş and Ankara reject a series of Security Council resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from the north, insisting on the prior recognition of the breakaway state.

Mr. Clerides said the Turkish rejection of the U.N. resolutions "makes it clear they



Glafcos Clerides

do not want a settlement (on this basis). They want recognition of the pseudo-state."

He added that his call for stronger United Nations action is backed by the Security Council, which has warned it will adopt alternative ways of ensuring implementation of the council resolutions if the deadlock continues. The council did not specify what it might do.

Mr. Clerides came here for consultations following Socialist Premier Andreas Papanikolaou's election victory over the conservatives last month.

Kuwaiti rape victim assails court proceeding

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As hearings of a case involving murder and rape charges against a Kuwaiti security official continue at a snail pace, the family of the victims is charging deliberate suppression of evidence and twisting of facts as well as character assassination.

Naim Farhat, son of Ismail Farhat and brother of Usama Farhat and Naimat Farhat — the victims — is also charging that the Kuwaiti court trying the case has not indicated any willingness to call prosecution witnesses who, he says, could testify to the actual happenings at the Farhat residence in Kuwait City on March 2, 1991, a few days after the Iraqi army was forced out of the emirate after a seven-month occupation.

Mr. Farhat, a U.S. citizen

resident in San Jose, California, argues that the killing of his father and brother as well as the rape and attempted murder of his sister Naimat were ordered by senior Kuwaiti officials and that the authorities of the emirate are deliberately covering up the affair.

Jaber Al Omairi, a former "interrogator" with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior, is the prime suspect in the case. He was detained in mid-1993 after an intense campaign by the Farhats on the international level.

The defence argument is that Mr. Omairi was seriously injured in the car accident several days before the incidents described by Naimat Farhat took place and, as such, he was not in the physical condition to have carried out the attack as charged.

Naimat Farhat, 35, travelled to Kuwait in August and positively identified Mr.

Omairi as the man who came to her house, made her tie up her father and brother, raped her, shot her in the head and then killed the two hogtied men. Miss Farhat, left to bleed to death, was rescued by neighbours. She underwent surgery, but one side of her body is paralysed and she needs help to move around. She lives with her brother in the U.S.

According to Mr. Farhat, who has enlisted the support of American and international human rights organisations and lawyers, the court is only hearing defence witnesses, whose testimony so far implied that the Lebanese-origin Farhat family "collaborated" with the Iraqis during the occupation and that the reputation of Naimat Farhat was "bad."

"The trial has been under way for over six months," he said. "In essence, there have been no witnesses for the

prosecution brought into court," said Mr. Farhat, speaking on behalf of his paralysed sister.

"They want to characterise my sister as a slut and discredit her testimony," Mr. Farhat told the Jordan Times over the phone.

He was referring to the testimony of Amin Al Faqih, also a Lebanese national, that he had seen Iraqi soldiers repeatedly visiting the Farhat residence during the occupation.

Mr. Farhat's mother, Maimana, has said that the Iraqis suspected that the family was helping Kuwaiti resistance and had detained Ismail Farhat several times for questioning. "He used to tell me that he prefers to die and not to inform Iraqis about anyone," she was quoted as saying in a recent report.

Another witness, a colleague of Mr. Omairi, has withdrawn an earlier statement that he knew what was

being planned by the accused. The witness, who is under detention in connection with another unspecified crime, sent a fresh statement to the court last month saying his first testimony was extracted under duress.

"The whole thing is a charade," charged Naim Farhat. "The Kuwaitis have no intention of ensuring that justice is carried out. They want to put up a show trial for the world to satisfy the international outcry the case has raised and then close the book."

But it is unlikely that the affair would go away. Several American human rights groups and lawyers have picked up the case and are closely following it up, along with the American administration, particularly that from Mr. Farhat's state — California — who had sought to apply pressure on Kuwait since 1991 are now senior officials in the Clinton administration.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le Monde Sans Frontières
18:30 News in French
19:30 News in Arabic
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 "Night Court"
22:30 Brand New Life
23:30 News in English
23:30 Feature Film: "Queen Christina"

PRAYER TIMES

06:00 Fajr
06:00 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:50 Dhuhr
14:15 Asr
16:00 Maghrib
18:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 614590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De In Solle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 625236
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:

There will be a slight rise in temperatures with clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 5 / 15
Aqaba 10 / 24
Dhahran 2 / 14
Jordan Valley 11 / 20
Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 12.8, Aqaba 22.2, Humidity 50 per cent, Amman 90 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Muhammad Hindi 898787
Dr. Rashid Zaitoun 888685
Dr. Mohammad Al Abbadi 778999
Dr. Nidal Al Dalabeh 873195
First pharmacy 661912
Second pharmacy 676660
Al Asana pharmacy 670355
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simone pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

DRBD:
Dr. Ali Al Omairi 773032
Aqaba pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Tareq Hijawi 544631

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 611111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 751212
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Herald Complaints 605800
Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467
Assessing Municipality 787111
Repairs 623101
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone 631030
Abdali Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 664171/4
Palestine, Shmeisani 669131
Shmeisani Hospital 845845
Al-Musasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Amal Hospital 686100
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900260
Ras Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)986990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:10 Misrat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:25 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

16:35 London (RJ)
16:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
16:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
16:45 Rome (AZ)
18:45 Paris, Beirut (AF)
20:00 Aden (TY)
06:25 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Amsterdam, Aqaba (RJ)
08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:35 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:05 London (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Larnaca (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Colombo, Singapore (RJ)

ARRIVALS

08:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:10 Misrat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:25 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

16:35 London (RJ)
16:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
16:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

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09:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

16:35 London (RJ)
16:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
16:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Round table meeting will seek to promote Jordan's role as a regional economic centre

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Hashemite Association for International Economic Cooperation (HAIEC) will hold a four-day round table meeting in Amman on Nov. 20 to help promote Jordan's role as a regional economic centre under the slogan: "Jordan: Middle East Gate and a Window on the World."

The announcement was made Monday by Maan Thubian, association executive president, who said that the meeting will also focus on the association's role in promoting the Jordanian economy.

The round table, to be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Vladimir Chomiko, First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, will draw attention to the need to

promote economic and trade relations between Jordan and Russia, said Mr. Thubian.

"Our association was established six months ago following Prince Hassan's meeting with a number of Jordanian investors and businessmen," he said.

"Since the meeting we have made contacts with the Russian leadership and carried out studies to determine Russia's needs following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, in order to promote Jordan's trade with that country," Mr. Thubian added.

He said that the survey of the Russian markets showed that the country was in need of expertise in banking, insurance, accountancy, marketing and management, which was costly to import from the West, but available in abundance in Jordan which is looking for new markets

abroad.

The Russian leadership has expressed willingness to cooperate with Jordan which could help the Russian economy in its transitional period and has decided to despatch a high-level delegation representing the private and public sectors to meet with Jordanian businessmen and discuss scopes of bilateral cooperation, added Mr. Thubian.

He said the association has issued invitations to Jordanian firms, banks, businesses and other economic establishments to take part in the round table meeting with the Russian team.

Mr. Thubian explained that the HAIEC is a non-governmental gathering of investors, business persons and legal experts who attained distinguished professional achievements on the interna-

tional level and who seek to identify investment opportunities and to cooperate either in the areas where they undertake their activities or in the areas they wish their activities to cover.

Referring to the association's objectives, he said that the HAIEC strives to get its members acquainted with one another and cooperate and organise meetings with decision-makers in official and private organisations in order to identify available investment opportunities. He said the association also seeks to collect investment information, statistical data, legal documents and economic studies related to investment opportunities; to establish an international arbitration centre; and to organise the exchange of expertise among states.

Visiting Chinese official says Beijing keen to cooperate on water utilisation

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a Chinese team which Monday held talks with government officials said that his country was willing to cooperate with the Kingdom in a variety of sectors and promote trade links.

Rao Chun Nhao, deputy director general of the Chinese ministry of science and technology, said that China was most specifically willing to cooperate with Jordan in the utilisation of water resources.

The Chinese team held meetings with Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad and senior assistants focusing on means of promoting trade and launching joint ventures with Jordanian businesses.

Urging the Chinese to help adjust the balance of trade which is in favour of China, Mr. Awad said Jordan hopes China will increase its imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash.

Referring to investment, Mr. Awad said there are 300 industrial projects in Jordan which await foreign investments and which have priority among other projects.

Mr. Awad urged the Chinese also to increase their economic, trade and technological cooperation with the Kingdom.

According to ministry sources, Jordan and China signed their first trade agreement in 1978, but upgraded it

following 1985 and 1991 joint Jordanian-Chinese committee meetings.

The ministry said China and Jordan exchanged products worth \$50 million in the first eight months of 1993.

According to the statement, Mr. Awad briefed the Chinese team on incentives offered to foreign businesspersons investing in the Kingdom and also spoke about the difficulties that face the national economy over the past few years.

In'am Mufti to receive award for role in promoting Arab women

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of Noor Al Hussein Foundation In'am Mufti will leave Amman for New York today (Tuesday) where she will receive the National Organisation of Arab-American Women's (NOAAW) "Award for the Promotion of Arab Women," and be a distinguished participant at a conference on "Women in Leadership Roles."

NOAAW's two-day conference, which will be held at the United Nations, will focus on the similarities and differences among the experiences of prominent women in the United States and the Third World.

Key participants and

speakers include women who have held high political offices, heads of the United Nations development agencies and academics among others.

"Mrs. Mufti, who in 1979 became the first Jordanian woman to hold a ministerial position, is among two women from the Arab World and two Arab-American participants who will be honoured by the NOAAW for their efforts in enhancing the status of Arab women."

NOAAW was founded in 1992 as a feminist organisation by a group of women academics, scientists, development workers, writers, executives, artists and others



In'am Mufti in the United States. The organisation's goals include sponsoring women's studies and development projects for women as well as establishing relations with other women's organisations.

Ministry plans for Madaba community centre

MADABA (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development plans to establish a community centre in the Bani Hamida villages of the Madaba District, according to Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Ssour.

Making the announcement during a tour of the Madaba area, the minister said the estimated JD 45,000 project would be covered by the ministry's 1994 budget and financing from the Industrial Development Bank (IDB).

Noting that the designs for the construction of the project have been completed, Dr. Ssour said that work on the community centre, which would provide facilities for various social activities, was expected to start early next year.

Dr. Ssour also announced that his ministry plans to set up a similar centre for the Shawabkeh cluster of villages in the Madaba area.

The minister attended a graduation ceremony for groups of women who successfully completed training courses in sewing in two local charitable societies.

Dr. Ssour called on the 28 societies operating in the Madaba region to benefit from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation markets set up in their region to market their products and so help finance the societies' activities.

At the outset of the tour, the minister was briefed by Hashem Faouri, the district governor, who outlined present social services in the district and the charitable societies' needs.

Shamvili to bring Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann to Amman

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tonight (Tuesday) Regina Shamvili will sit at the key board to play Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann.

The recital, to take place at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), is presented by The National Music Conservatory — Noor Al Hussein Foundation, in cooperation with the American Center in Amman.

Born in the Soviet Union Ms. Shamvili studied, worked and lived there until 1983. She was already a world-class performer when living in Moscow, but was prohibited from playing abroad. Ms. Shamvili now lives in the United States.

Reviews of her performances by the world press may seem exaggerated at first sight, but when critics agree and use superlative terms to



Regina Shamvili describe her talent, one has to believe them.

"It was as though Clara Schumann herself had appeared on the stage," wrote a Czech journalist. "She has an internal fire, grace and virtuosity. She is gifted with a rare lyricism,"

said the great Armenian musician Aram Khachaturian.

Regina Shamvili is expected to delight music lovers in Jordan as she has audiences all over the world. Her recital begins at 8:00 p.m. at the RCC's main theatre.

Factors in Senate make-up

(Continued from page 1)

experts who can fill the gap. The Senate has traditionally acted as a balancing factor and guarded against having legislations influenced by the political inclinations of deputies, said one prominent lawyer who asked not to be named.

He expected the 17th Senate to include more legal experts than its predecessors did in order to make up for the limited number of deputies with legal background.

Observers also expect the new Senate to be injected with personalities who can effectively deal with the political and economic requirements of what one observer called "the crucial era through which Jordan is passing."

Many of the senators who, for one reason or

another, were not active during the term of the current Senate will not be reappointed," said one observer. "These senators," he said, "are expected to be replaced with people who can contribute more to the legislative and political procession in the Kingdom."

Settler kills

(Continued from page 1)

was signed and settlers have sought revenge, shooting and wounding a dozen Palestinians and attacking cars and homes.

Settler leaders contend Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin abandoned them by signing the autonomy agreement, which provides for an initial Israeli troop pullout from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho due to begin next month.

Automation, microprocessor meeting starts with focus on establishing national industry

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting on automation and microprocessor controls Monday opened with a call on Arab countries to utilise their human resources and other potentials in establishing a national industry.

The time has come for the Arab World to create a strong national industry based on its extensive resources and available wealth and trusting in its intrinsic capabilities in order to attain progress, said Mohammad Abdul Aziz, dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan, which hosted the meeting.

The Arab World possesses vast natural resources and raw materials, as well as skilled manpower needed for advanced industry based on modern technology, said Dr. Abdul Aziz.

Referring to the situation in Jordan he said that the country's skilled manpower and natural resources contributed to the major strides in its modern industrial sector, which, he said, competes with similar industries of the world.

Youssef Assaf, head of the Industrial Engineering Department, said that the use of modern technology has become a condition for development, especially in the Third World.

Industry, he added, has become the pillar of the national economies of developing nations.

Dr. Assaf said regional and international cooperation in the utilisation of manpower and material resources are other conditions for the attainment of the aspired development in the modern age.

Hassan Sharif, a representative of the Economic and So-



The utilisation of modern technology such as this 32-bit processor which can process, store and communicate information, has become a condition for development, particularly in the Third World (File photo)

cial Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) told the opening session of the three-day meeting that control equipment and instrumentation are becoming increasingly crucial in industrial production and service systems.

The share of controls and instrumentation can be as high as 25 per cent of the total fixed capital in modern industrial systems, he said.

Furthermore, with the wide diffusion of microprocessors and applications, the design, maintenance and services of control systems require higher and more technical skills that need continuous training and

up-dating, he said.

A quick review of the situation in the Arab countries, said Dr. Sharif, reveals the increasing diffusion of microprocessor controls and applications as well as other sophisticated instrumentation in various fields and sectors. These are being increasingly used in the petroleum, chemical, phosphate, cement, iron, steel and textile industries, as well as in hospitals, universities and research centres, added Dr. Sharif.

Experts from ESCWA member countries are taking part in the meeting which was organised jointly by ESCWA and the United Nations Industrial

Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Experts from both U.N. agencies along with those of Arab states are to discuss ways and means of enhancing the technical capabilities in the Arab countries to install, operate and maintain the latest automation instrumentation and microprocessor controls.

The participants will also study the necessity and feasibility to establish a regional instrumentation service centre in one of the Arab countries.

The Syrian government has expressed serious interest in hosting and supporting such a centre.

Mafrq TCC begins project to provide 12,540 new telephone lines

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Minister of Communications and Postal Affairs Tareq Suheimat Monday laid the foundation stone for the Mafrq Telecomunications Project which will cost JD 17 million.

Addressing a ceremony held to mark the occasion, the minister said that the new project would make available an additional 12,540 telephone lines which should suffice the needs of Mafrq City and the neighbouring villages and settlements.

Speaking on the occasion also was Ta'an Hussein Al Abbadi, director of the Mafrq Telecomunications Department who said that the commencement of the project was part of the governorate's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 58th birthday. Present at the ceremony was Telecomunications Corporation (TCC) Director General Ahmad Nawawi and Mafrq Governor Qafan Al Majali.

Jordan's oil shale could produce 35 billion barrels of oil — ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, which Monday organised a day-long meeting to make a preliminary assessment of progress in the utilisation of oil shale found in Jordan, said oil shale reserves in the Kingdom could produce a total of 35 billion barrels of oil. A ministry statement said that the assessment was needed in the light of ongoing extraction of shale by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA).

Noting that oil shale is found in abundance in several areas of Jordan, the statement said that the meeting was designed to find ways of exploiting the oil shale to reduce Jordan's reliance on imported crude oil.

The assessment and discussions in this regard, conducted with experts from a Swedish company Monday, revealed that Jordan has an estimated 40 billion tonnes, of oil shale, equivalent to or capable of producing 35 billion barrels of oil.

The discussion, noted the statement, focused on the

method of direct burning of shale to produce steam which could be utilised to generate electricity. It said that according to experts' views, the burning was quite safe and caused no danger to the environment.

The statement noted that the experts presented another view that oil shale could be exploited in a distillation process to produce various oil products as well as sulphur.

A study conducted by the NRA in the early 1980s found that oil shale deposits in the country are very rich and among the best in the world.

Workshop to enhance skills of UNICEF communication officers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Monday opened a 10-day workshop for communication officers employed by the agency and government counterparts in 13 different countries including Jordan.

The workshop was opened at the Information Training Centre at Jordan Radio and Television Corporation by Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar who outlined the role of Jordan Radio and Television in the field of communications, and thanked UNICEF for organising the meeting in Amman.

UNICEF Regional Director Sarojini Vittachi Padi tribute to the Jordanian media for its support of health care, especially to women and children. Twelve million children die annually worldwide from preventable diseases, Mrs. Vittachi said.

CONDOLENCES

The staff of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington D.C. deeply mourn the passing away of

MR. JAMIL MUASHER

father of their colleague and director, Dr. Marwan Muasher. Our thoughts and hearts are with the Muasher family.

CONDOLENCES

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing away, at the age of 72, of

Jamil Issa Muasher

father of our friend and former colleague Dr. Marwan Muasher. May his soul rest in peace.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of coins at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fahmi Al Qaysi at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ibrahim Al Nashashibi at Baladna Art Gallery (Gardens Street).
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabdouh at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Art exhibition by a number of artists at the Student Affairs Building at the University of Jordan.
- ★ The Palestinian embroidery exhibit at the Royal Cultural Centre (daily 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Fuman of the Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.).

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jalous at the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- ★ Film in German entitled "40 Jahre Deutsche Welle" at the Goethe-Institut at 8:00 p.m. (30 minutes).
- ★ Film entitled "Der Tennisplatz" at the Goethe-Institut at 8:00 p.m. (60 minutes).

DIALOGUE

- ★ Dialogue with Lebanese artist Majedah Al Rumi at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

DRAMAS

- ★ Drama entitled "Stories in a Drama" at Samir Al Rifa'i Auditorium at the University of Jordan at 3:00 p.m.

Piano: Recital

- ★ Piano recital by Regina Shamvili at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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4. Age not to exceed 30 years.

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By Rami G. Khouri

Jordan Times

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Editorial and advertising offices:

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Faxsimile: 696183

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No man is an island

WITH THE mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation reformists flexing their muscle and Palestinian opposition mounting pressure on the PLO leadership, there are increasing fears that unless the Palestinian house is put in order the Palestinian-Israeli accord could effectively be derailed. The fallout from any such event would undoubtedly affect the Jordanian-Israeli track as well as the Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese fronts. There is therefore a lot at stake for all the parties in the current conflict within the PLO; and unless this situation is addressed, there is every risk that the entire peace process could be stalemated.

The central issue for the PLO reformists is Chairman Yasser Arafat's style of governing the operations of the Palestinian organisation, including its decision-making process, especially his handling of negotiations with the Israelis. There is nothing new in Arafat's not-very-democratic style of running Palestinian affairs as this personalised leadership has been the hallmark of his rule ever since he assumed the leadership of the PLO more than two decades ago. In retrospect, the grumbling of disgruntled PLO people should have started a long time ago if their concern about the introduction of democracy to their national institution is so genuine. Granted that democracy and democratically-taken decisions, would be infinitely better for the Palestinian cause than autocratic measures and policies, one would still question the timing of sounding the alarm; what is holding one back, though, is the fact that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have reached a critical stage necessitating wider base and participation. The PLO, as a revolutionary movement, was not expected to enjoy the kind of democratic institutions as self-governing independent states do. Now that the PLO has turned to negotiations, instead of armed struggle, to attain Palestinian rights, there is plenty of room for real consultations among the leadership, especially when the Palestinians are being asked to make historic and binding commitments for themselves as well as for their future generations.

This is true even though effective leadership is also called for because bureaucratic inertia and self-interest could affect the decision-making process, rendering the PLO unable to respond to challenges or make daring moves that are clearly necessary if the peace talks are to reap meaningful results. A balance between effective and forceful leadership and wider consultations needs to be struck simply because the issues are so formidable that no one man is capable of deciding on them on his own. At this crucial stage in Palestinian history there are decisions that require decisiveness and speed. And it is always the prerogative of the leadership to take these decisions even in the most democratically-run governments. Democracy cannot and should not be confused with indecision provided that prior to making a decision there are democratically-held discussions. That is about all that most of the genuine reformists are asking for. More than that could mean that "reformists" are in league with the opposition under the guise of wanting democracy within the PLO. Arafat is called upon to rectify this confusing state of affairs by loosening up his sole grip on the PLO and incorporating the real reformists in the decision-making process.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Monday urged the government to turn its attention to pressing domestic issues, having given most of its attention so far to political matters and the democratic process. There can be no more justification for further delaying handling domestic affairs, including economic and administrative issues as these are the paramount importance because they affect all public sectors, said Mohammad Daoud. There is urgent need for stimulating the economic activity in accordance with a plan to be drawn up by specialists from the public as well as the private sector and there is need for the development of the public administration in a manner that would most efficiently serve the national goals, demanded the writer. No political strategy, no matter how carefully it is planned, can have a positive effect unless it is backed by a strong national economy and a modern public administration that can cater to the requirement of the modern age, the scientific and technological progress and other changes and developments, stressed the writer. What is needed in the public administration sector, said the writer, is a qualified cadre that can skillfully manage government business and cater to the needs of the urgent requirements of the present and the future.

A WRITER in Al Dustour described the hopes and the optimism that rose with the signing of the PLO-Israeli deal on Sept. 13 as false and deceptive. Mazen Hamad said that the Palestinians achieved nothing with this deal and could not even secure the release of the detainees from Israeli jails. In fact Israel is using the detainees to pressure the PLO into accepting Israel's will and dictates, he added. It is no secret that the PLO is awaiting the release of the 13,000 detainees in order to get credit in the eyes of the Palestinian people after the PLO-Israeli deal and therefore the PLO has all the right to insist that the detainees — be freed before Dec. 13 when the start of the Israeli withdrawals is supposed to occur, said the writer.

The View from Fourth Circle

Jordan's Islamists — a growing force or a fading footnote?

The significant decline in the strength of the Islamists in the Jordanian Parliament — in sharp contrast to the rising power of Islamists in other parts of the region — is an important phenomenon that should be appreciated because of its implications for other Arab/Islamic countries. The decline of the Islamists is not surprising, however; it was expected and was easily predictable, if one assessed the phenomenon of Islamist politics in its full dimensions — as an indigenous movement of protest and challenge in the face of severe economic, political and social pressures. I would suggest the following reasons for the Islamists' decline:

1. The main weakness of the Islamists is that they were unable to make the transition from the 1980s to the 1990s. In this election they blindly repeated the emotional slogans that they had used so effectively to challenge governments and ruling oligarchies in the 1980s, in Jordan as well as in other Middle Eastern lands. But the tactics of social sentimentality, religious identity, and bold political fearlessness that worked well for the Islamists in the 1980s were out of place and outdated in the 1990s.

The voters today want more than comforting slogans; they want effective programmes that can respond to their daily needs in fields such as education, housing, food and fuel prices, jobs, water, telephones, and other practical issues. The Jordanian Islamists have so far largely failed the test of practical politics. Whether in parliament or during their brief experience in the government of Mudar Badran, they have proved unable to make the transition from charismatic challenges of government power to effective wielders of government power.

"The Islamists were the only viable option for venting opposition in the 1980s; but in the 1990s, they found themselves huddled with 20 other political parties and scores of tribal alliances. People could write more freely in the press and speak in public meetings. The political and emotional pressures that had generated support for the Islamists in the 1980s were diffused after 1989, and this hurt their support base."

Their experience in the Badran cabinet was most instructive; not only did they do a mediocre job in the ministries they held, but in some cases (such as education) they also succeeded in generating organised counter-protest movements against their policies. It became obvious at that point that they were not only more comfortable in the opposition; they were also likely to self-destruct if they remained in positions of executive authority. They were good challengers, but weak ideas men and lousy administrators.

2. The liberalisation and initial democratisation of the Jordanian political system has eroded their constituency. Their appeal in the 1980s had stemmed largely from the degradation, humiliation and indignity that ordinary people in the Middle East felt at the hands of top-heavy, autocratic, often authoritarian states run by families or individuals. When they were the only indigenous, credible, active folks challenging the old system, the Islamists attracted much support. They were, indeed, a daring, charismatic crowd in the 1980s, and a very necessary counterforce to the oligarchic abuse of power that was destroying the Arab World.

When King Hussein recognised that the prevailing Jordanian power structure was untenable and not sustainable, he relaxed the domestic political system, and thus the Islamists

lost a key source of their support. They no longer had to challenge the regime or the system from outside; they had to play by the rules, and show that they could do better than the power structure they were challenging. They have been unable to do this in a convincing way — so far.

When the Islamists made the transition from the House of God to the House of Parliament, they relinquished most of their spiritual halo and much of their political appeal. They were transformed from sacred political sages into just another bunch of street politicians splashing around in the parliamentary mudpits; they joined the rest of the politicians who were making deals, compromises, coalitions and promises in the hope of winning votes.

3. The advent of a pluralistic political system with 20 other parties provided novel options for those discontented voters or political activists who wanted to express their opposition to the government. The Islamists were the only viable option for venting opposition in the 1980s; but in the 1990s, they found themselves huddled with 20 other political parties and scores of tribal alliances. People could write more freely in the press and speak in public meetings. The political and emotional pressures that had generated support for the Islamists in the 1980s were diffused after 1989, and this hurt their support base.

4. The relative economic improvements in 1992 and 1993 took votes away from the Islamists, whose support had relied on a combination of political discontent and economic discomfort. The graph of rising political support for the Islamists in the 1980s coincided almost perfectly with the decline in real personal incomes and living standards in the 1980s. The economic adjustment programme launched in 1988 caused many people to suffer, and thus it strengthened Islamist support in the 1989 election; but the economic gains that were registered in 1992-1993 (partly as a result of the adjustment programme) reversed this process, and drew votes away from the Islamists.

5. The Islamists' political performance during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis was a blow to their credibility and support base; they promised victory on the basis of blind emotional hocus-pocus and some equally vague political mumbo-jumbo. This poor act was followed up by an equally unimpressive performance in their opposition to the 1991 Madrid peace talks, the 1992 deportation of 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon, and the 1993 Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles. In all three cases, the Islamists (usually with equally ineffective leftist support) tried to generate mass political protests; but the masses were unimpressed, uninterested, or too busy with other, more pressing priorities.

Clearly, the majority of people supported the Jordanian government's and the PLO's diplomatic negotiations with Israel. The Islamists were bellowing the fire of the 1960s and promising the grandeur of centuries past; the people were assessing the real-life pressures of the 1990s and looking forward to something better in the next century.

6. The experience of Iran and Sudan, where "Islamic regimes" ruled, were not very helpful to the cause of the Jordanian Islamists. The track record of Islamists in power in other Middle Eastern countries was neither very successful in resolving people's day-to-day socio-economic problems nor very comforting in terms of offering domestic political systems that were less authoritarian and more participatory. We had few models to assess in terms of pondering a future "Islamic state" structure; the two we could evaluate in Iran and Sudan were still very problematic. Most voters here who compared the Jordanian system with these visions of "Islamic" states found the Jordanian centrist model far more appealing, and they made their views known in their votes.

7. The change in the voting system to one-person, one-vote clearly hurt the Islamists, just as it hurt the leftists. But I believe the real reason for the drop in Islamist deputies is the

overall decline in their credibility, because they have not been able to change in line with the changing political system in which they operate.

The main lesson of the Islamists' decline in this election, in my mind, is that an open, pluralistic Arab/Islamic political system will a) de-politicise Islam, b) reduce the Islamists' appeal as a daring opposition, and c) force the other competing political, tribal and establishment forces to devise practical programmes that respond to people's day-to-day needs. This should suggest to others in the region that the way to deal with opposition movements is to bring them into the system and let them try their hand at solving society's problems. The politics of religious and ethnic inclusion seems to work well in Jordan, and it begs to be tried in other lands, such as Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Libya.

Islam, in such a context, will slowly lose its explicit political veneer, and revert to its fundamental role as a religion. (If you're looking for parallels of religions that were politicised in order to challenge governing systems and then returned to their religious roles when the political challenge was no longer needed, look at the churches in South Africa and the United States; there are many common political/moral logics in the deeds of folks like Abbas Madani, Ahmad Kofahi, Omar Abdul Rahman, Ibrahim Kilani, Pat Robertson, Ayatollah Khomeini, Pat Buchanan, Abdul Munem Abu Zant, Allan Boesak, Hassan Turabi, Jesse Jackson, Desmond Tutu, and Isiah Farhan).

"...the Islamists will follow the example of the environmentalists in the West; many of their principles and aspirations will be institutionalised into our daily laws and ways, while their strength as an explicit political force will dwindle into a small hardcore of committed activists who will continue to act as a check on the conscience of society. They shall have enriched society, but not dominated it, for which they will also have our appreciation and praise."

The gradual de-politicisation of Islam does not mean that the Islamists are finished as a political force. They are still a strong bloc. But their core base is threatened by improved economic and political conditions, and their ability to attract new supporters is almost zero, in view of their imprecise programme and the fact that other political options are now available to voters. They must either rise to the challenge and develop a credible political programme that attracts supporters (probably in coalition with the tribal centrists), or they will slowly make their way to the great footnote in the sky where the world keeps its collection of old political movements that glowed brightly for a brief moment, basked in the glow of the cheering masses, and then faded away.

My personal guess is that the Islamists will follow the example of the environmentalists in the West; many of their principles and aspirations will be institutionalised into our daily laws and ways, while their strength as an explicit political force will dwindle into a small hardcore of committed activists who will continue to act as a check on the conscience of society. They will become the Ralph Naders of Jordan, for which they will have our thanks and admiration. They shall have enriched society, but not dominated it, for which they will also have our appreciation and praise.

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Foreign policy is about the national interest

By Henry Kissinger

NEW YORK — President Bill Clinton deserves support for his effort to disengage from Somalia, where the United States had no national interest and should never have become involved militarily. But his deeper challenge is to define a rationale for continued American engagement in regions where the U.S. national interest does compel it.

The president has called attention to this need, but his administration's statements are so muddled as to compound perplexities.

The basic problem is that administration spokesmen, including the president, seem to shrink from any geopolitical or security context for the use of American force, or from any implication that the national interest may sometimes require the application of power. In its quest for general causes and multilateral action, the administration reflects the attitudes of a generation whose defining experience was the Vietnam war. Convinced that the Vietnam disaster was caused by an excessive concern with national security, they are now trying to submerge the national interest in multilateral ventures.

This point of view misunderstands the past as much as it misjudges the present.

America entered Indochina as it did all wars in the 20th century — on behalf of universal principle, as expressed for example in Wilson's dictum "to make the world safe for democracy." In Vietnam it was on behalf of the doctrine of collective security, to oppose what was judged to be a global Chinese-Soviet military offensive and to safeguard democracy against what was perceived as a global strategy of guerrilla warfare.

The error of Indochina was not that America was too nationalistic, but that its goals were too universal; not that it was too self-centred, but that it was too indiscriminating. The fear of having a national



foreign policy explains the administration's neglect of such traditional instruments of policy as existing alliances, and the scarcity of references in its statements to common interests with other countries — except to carry out an American agenda for such universal causes as human rights, non-proliferation and collective security.

Thus the president's appeal that America must find the "right course" for staying engaged in the world lacks any criteria for what this "right course" is. In their absence, we cannot judge the "unacceptable costs" that the president urges Americans to avoid.

The doctrine of collective security assumes that all nations perceive international problems in the same way and are prepared to run the same risks for vindicating their view. The essence of the new world order is its fragmentation on a national and even ethnic basis. Universal causes, however, are hard to come by.

Even during the cold war, when there existed a global threat, it was rarely possible to obtain an international consen-

sus except for defending the centre of Europe, and that task was policed by NATO, a traditional alliance, rather than by the United Nations. The off-invoked Gulf war was less a multilateral action than an American action multilaterally supported by other states to gain an influence over U.S. decisions.

In situation like Somalia, meaningful "collective security" is to all practical purposes out of reach. Witness the extent to which many of the military forces sent there by other nations assiduously avoided combat. Nor is the repeated distinction between "political" and "military" solutions very helpful.

The mistake in Somalia was not that a political police mission was abandoned for a military one, but that the Bush administration sent military forces without defining a goal permitting extrication. The American military is not designed for humanitarian missions, and its difficulties were magnified when the Clinton administration's United Nations ambassador, Madeleine Albright, added "nation build-

ing" to its agenda. The misery in Somalia was man-made; it was the product of exactly the kind of clan warfare in which the president has said that America should not meddle. I agree, but there

"How are the administration's statements on Somalia to be reconciled with its attitudes towards China and Peru or, for that matter, Russia?"

was never a way of ending the humanitarian mission without either returning to the conditions which had produced the need for it or engaging in nation building. And nation building required the very war-

fare that Americans are now being told to abjure.

Once a military conflict exists, the situation on the ground will determine the "political" outcome. If in Somalia a "political" solution implies anything different from the status quo ante, it can be achieved only by military pressure or at least the threat of it. In other words, debacle was inherent in the initial intervention, which was doomed from the start to end in Somali domestic chaos and starvation, or in American involvement in a Somali civil war.

Administration statements continually cite Cambodia as an example of a successful United Nations-led "political" solution. In fact, Cambodia proves the opposite point. No other country has been so exhausted by military conflict. After 20 years of warfare, all the parties had come to the end of their ropes. The "political solution" reflected the military situation; it was not a substitute for it. The United Nations provided the forum in which the exhausted parties could talk.

It is ironic that an adminis-

tration so determined to distinguish itself from the past seems so in danger of repeating America's traditional error of invoking general causes for all situations and all regions — under the labels of enlargement of democracy and multilateral initiatives.

If it is true, as President Clinton has said, that "it is not our job to rebuild Somalia as society or its political structure," why does it follow in the same press conference that the United States should send military personnel to Haiti "to retrain the army, to rebuild the nation"? Is Washington embarrassed to say that it is because Haiti, being close, is a security concern, and Somalia, being far, is not?

And if security is the principal U.S. worry in Haiti, can it be defined and are there other ways of achieving it than by using force to restore a leader who is universally described as extraordinarily unstable and reckless?

How are the administration's statements on Somalia to be reconciled with its attitudes towards China and Peru or, for that matter, Russia?

Somalia has come early enough in the administration's term to enable it to define the nature and the limits of future American military intervention. At stake must be the American public can understand.

If there exists no American purpose other than to fulfill an international consensus, and if one cannot explain to American families that their loved ones are risking their lives to enhance America's security or well-being, it will not be possible to stay the course until "success" is achieved. This national interest must be translatable into a military mission achievable within a time period sustainable by the American political process.

If other nations have views compatible with the above, America should welcome their cooperation, as in the Gulf war. — International Herald Tribune

Jordan has a long and proud history and civilisation

By Dr. Fawwaz Ahmad Tuqan

No place in the Middle East is void of history. Everywhere you look, there is a significant event which once took place or a significant historical figure who passed by here. Everywhere in the Middle East, even in the remotest areas, history is attested. Some places witnessed more events than others. Some places were always the centre, or the heart, of events. Some other places were peripheral to the mainstream of history. Yet, there is no place in our part of the world which did not witness any historical event or did not come under the influence of some historical personality.

Jordan lies in the heart of the ancient world. One is tempted to generalise by saying that Jordan lies at the crossroads of history. No matter how one looks at this term, it is more or less correct.

It was not Jordan's weak status in history that brought to it armies, invaders, migrants; rather, its consecutive civilisation, which were peaceful and non-aggressive, tempted adventurers.

There is no other explanation.

The Fertile Crescent (Mesopotamia, parts of Anatolia, greater Syria) was a crossroad to invading armies from Iran, Greece, Egypt and Arabia. However, Mesopotamia, Babylon and Assyria, and the Hittites in Anatolia, played an aggressive role in history, with dreams of establishing great empires which they accomplished. And they were at the crossroad of history.

The states or kingdoms in our part of the world which had such dreams ended in catastrophe; the Israelites were made captives in Babylon; Queen Zenobia of Palmyra was made captive in Rome.

Jordan, on the other hand, had its own glorious history and important role in the stream of human civilisation. The new theory of the Jordan Valley Civilisation is gaining more converts. Academicians are subscribing to the fact that civilisation started in the Jordan Valley some 25,000 years ago. The data recently collected regarding the late Stone Age indicates that an urbanised human polity existed along the Jordan Valley and its two banks before the dawn of history.

Archaeological finds north of Amman (Ain Ghazal) proved that urbanised man inhabited the area at least 12,000 years ago. It is worth noting here that Mesopotamia and the Nile Valley theories of cradle of civilisation take us back only to half that period, i.e. to 6,000 years ago.

There are many instances which prove the Jordan Valley theory. I will cite just a few. Man harnessed fire far back in time. The first known human-made furnace was discovered south of the Dead Sea, dating back to approximately 25,000 years ago.

Man changed his way of living from hunter and food gatherer to producer of food by cultivation of plants and domestication of animals in the Jordan Valley and its two banks. The earliest signs of agriculture were found in this part of the world, the Natufians, about 10,000 years ago.

The earliest man-made deity (idol) dates back to the same period. We found several of those in the dolmen culture, on the East Bank of the Jordan River.

Man invented pottery 9,000 years ago. The earliest pottery shards were found in Jericho, west of the river.

Man built his first urban community (fortified and organised) in the Jordan Valley around 7,000 B.C.

Man discovered metal and found a way to cast brass, then

strengthen it as bronze, south of the Dead Sea and in the Naqab steppes. The earliest mines date around 5,000 B.C.

This Jordan Valley civilisation which preceded the Nile and Mesopotamia civilisations, it seems, belonged to a unified world culture. In south of Jordan, Kilwa site, rock engravings and drawings are similar in style to those in Libya and Algeria. Taly and those of Lascoux caves in southern France. The motifs and representations of human beings and animals apparently belonged to the same civilised people. I would venture say that by the end of the Ice Age, those people who sought refuge in the warm region of the Jordan Valley felt far more advanced and dared roam the open wilderness of the globe. Perhaps this very fact of feeling that the world belongs to all peoples was behind their extinction or their melting within the rising civilisations of the Nile Valley and Mesopotamia.

Jordan's recorded history does not go back beyond the Iron Age. Moab, i.e. Karak, was the first kingdom established in Jordan which enjoyed self-rule. Between 870 and 830 B.C., King Kammashit started a national movement.

It was his son, King Mashia' the Dhibonite, who freed his country from Israelite domination and established a prosperous state. His achievements were carved in the Canaanite

language on a small stela which is now in the Louvre. King Mashia' stela spoke of bounty and prosperity in the land. The ecology was completely different, woods, pastures, streams and herds of sheep were enjoyed by the inhabitants of the two hundred towns which made up the Kingdom of Moab and Dhibon/Dhiban.

The Edomites soon established another prosperous kingdom whose seat was in Busaira (now in the Governorate of Tafleeh), south of Moab. This kingdom lasted several centuries, along with another smaller kingdom in the middle of Jordan, that of the Ammonites, after whose name Amman, the capital, is named (Rabbat Amman, i.e. the Amman of the ten thousand inhabitants).

However, the most famous and affluent kingdom in Jordan before the advent of Islam was the Nabataean Kingdom. These South Arabian people who brought with them the elegance of Yemen and the advancements of Arabia Felix, literally carved a unique civilisation which extended to far horizons.

They were merchants, farmers, architects and above all, humane and peaceful people. From Damascus to Medinah in the Hijaz, and from Asqalan on the Palestinian coast to the depth of the Jordanian desert, the Nabataeans commanded a rich and stable democracy which lasted four centuries.

The Roman conquest in the beginning of the second century A.D. could not put an end to the Nabataean ingenuity. It only divested them of their independence. A century later, the Romans tried to Romanise the area. They built ten cities on the remains or the ruins of older sites. The common masterplan was similar to Rome. They tried to spread their language, culture and way of life. This is the period of the Decapolis. Amman was one of the ten cities. It was known by the name of Philadelphia. However, the Roman domination did not last and their efforts to change the cultural identity of the people was a failure. Soon, the country regained its national identity which was a mixture of Arab and Aramaic peoples. The dominant tongue, it seems, was Arabic.

Now Jordan enjoyed stability and prosperity for a long time. The remains of this period are cogent proof to the nature of the way of life which the people enjoyed.

Islam was introduced into Jordan before the Islamic conquests. Jordanian tribes and city dwellers answered to the call of the Prophet and paid allegiance to him before the armed clashes with the Byzantines, 631 A.D. and on. When the Muslims advanced into greater Syria to meet with the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius, they trod amongst their kinsmen.

The histories of early Islam and Jordan are entwined in such a way that one is tempted, here again, to say that Jordan was the first Muslim polity outside Mecca and Madinah.

An interesting piece of information is worth acknowledging at this juncture. Jordan, as an administrative province in early Islam, comprised northern Jordan and Palestine. On the other hand, Palestine as an administrative province, comprised southern Jordan and southern Palestine. The divisions were latitudinal, rather than longitudinal. In this respect, Haifa, Acre and Tyre (in Lebanon today) were Jordanian cities. On the other hand, Karak, Petra and Aqaba were Palestinian.

Islam co-existed with Christianity in this country through the ages. It was not before the tenth century A.D. that the Muslim population became the majority. During the first four centuries of Islam, Christians in Jordan enjoyed freedom of belief as did all "peoples of the book" throughout the world of Islam.

Here, they felt even closer to the Caliphate which banked on the Arabs irrespective of their religion. Jordanian Christians at the time were thoroughbred Arabs. Many Jordanians of the Christian faith served the Caliphate and some became part of the higher echelons of the state. Mu'awiyah, the first Umayyad Caliph married a Christian Arab who gave birth to his heir apparent, later, his successor.

This state of affairs gave Jordan the finest epoch ever in its entire history.

The Umayyad achievements in Jordan are remarkable and befitting the greatest Muslim Caliphate. To mention but an example, the Umayyad "desert" castles are magnificent relics that speak of emence and grandeur: Amra, Hisham Palace in the Jordan Valley, Mshatta and Tuba are but a few of these monuments. The Dome of the Rock, the Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the Umayyad Mosque of Damascus are yet other aspect of the greatness of the Umayyad Dynasty.

After their fall to their cousins, the Abbassids, the Umayyads fled to Spain and established yet a great civilisation in Toledo, Cordoba, Sevilla and the rest of Andalusia.

Jordan was the home of the Umayyads for nearly one century, ending in 750 A.D. There are at least a hundred and fifty-attested Umayyad archaeological sites in Jordan witnessing to the amount of attention these Caliphs paid to Jordan.

The explanation to this attitude is the fact that Jordan is strategically located to govern the vast Islamic Empire.

The prosperous and peaceful state of affairs which Jordan enjoyed through the first eleven centuries A.D. was severely interrupted by the crusaders.

The two bloody and sectarian centuries of the crusades awesomely affected Jordan. The military remains of that era exemplified in the gigantic fortresses of Karak, Shobak (Montreal), Rabad and Azraq, to mention but a few, are living aspects of the turbulent years which Jordan and the rest of the Middle East went through.

No sooner were the crusaders expelled than the Mongol hordes appeared from the east. The crusader castles and Sala-

dins military constructions in the area served well Jordan and the rest of the Muslim World in warding off the sweeping plague which devastated all centres of civilisation east of Jordan. In 1260, the Mongols were defeated in Ain Jalut never to return to the area again until they were converted to Islam several centuries later.

The Mamluks, who ruled the Islamic World after Saladin and until the advent of the Ottoman Turks in 1516 A.D., were, themselves, Turks and Circassians from the Caucasus. Jordan was very convenient to them. It served as a backline stronghold in whose citadels and fertile mountains they sought refuge, stored their surplus grain, treasured their gold, imprisoned their rebellious colleagues and trained their children for leadership and government.

Jordan benefitted a great deal of this situation. The Mamluk leaders reconstructed and developed Jordan to be able to offer those services. The result was beneficial. Most of all, the pilgrims' route to Mecca through Jordan was safe and offered many advantages.

During Ottoman times, Jordan played almost the same role. It reaped almost the same benefits. It was not until the rise of Turkish nationalism in the Ottoman Empire that Arab provinces, as well as other non-Turkish provinces, suffered oppression, neglect and attrition. Jordan, as the rest of the provinces, was treated like a colony. Eventually, the Arabs and other people of the Ottoman Empire, fought for their freedom.

Jordan's role in the Arab Revolt was crucial. The decisive battles between the Arabs and the Turkish armies were fought in Jordan with the help of Jordanian tribesmen and people.

The capturing of Damascus from the Turkish armies in 1918 by the Arab Revolt freedom fighters led by Prince Faisal of Hijaz and consisting mostly of Jordanian fighters, announced the dawn of modern Arab independence. Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Hijaz and Transjordan acquired their independence by 1920. Only Palestine was not fortunate. It was placed under British mandate which eventually facilitated the establishment of Israel and the displacement of the Palestinian Arabs.

In retrospect, all the peoples and civilisations that lived and flourished in Jordan left their indelible marks which are visible in the following main points:

— Jordan was, and still is, a fertile country which was developed internally.

— Jordan was, and still is, a peaceful country which did not seek aggression. Rather, it fell several times victim to outside oppression.

— Jordan played an active role in the development of human civilisation.

— Jordan houses and cherishes many unique relics of the past.

To be a citizen of a country with such a long and magnificent history is not an easy task. The achievements of the past are always acknowledged in the present; hence the fear of judgment by the people of the future.

It is related in bygone days that a monarch passed by a very old man planting olive trees.

"Do you expect to eat from

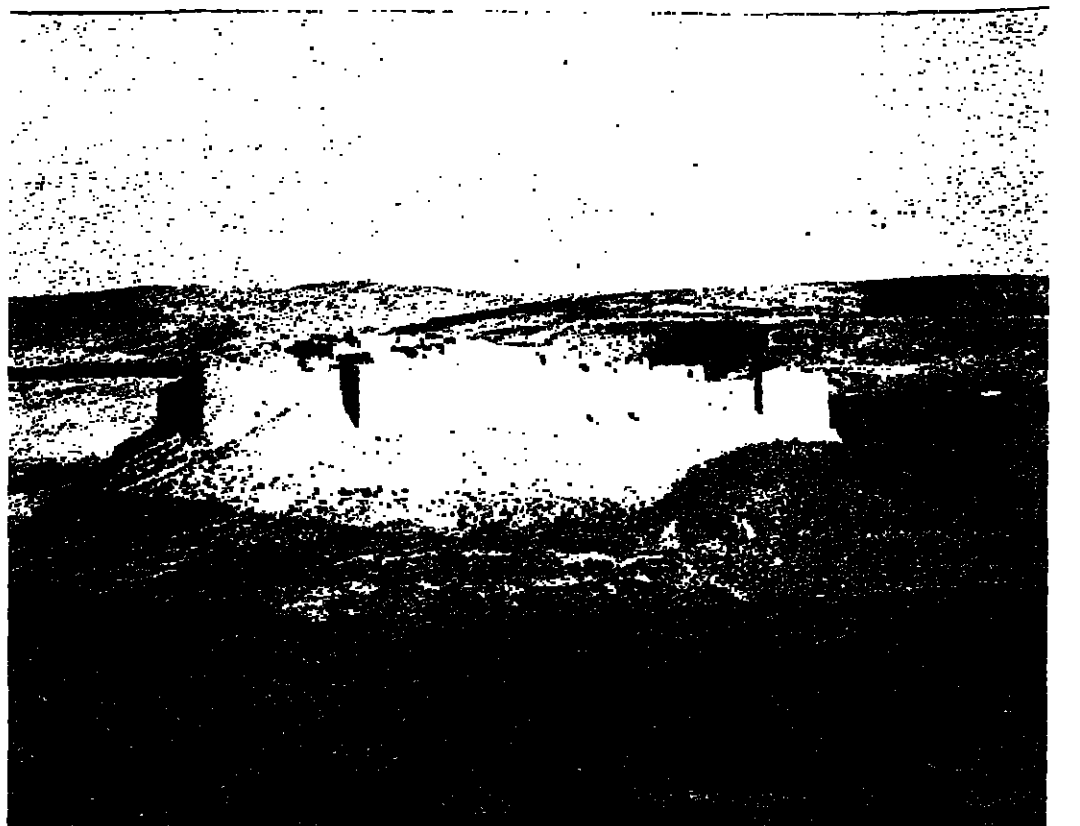
their fruits," exclaimed the monarch.

"But of course, not," retorted the old man.

"Then why do you waste

your time and efforts?" asked the monarch.

The old man answered: "They planted so we eat; and we plant so they will eat!"



Shobak Castle



Ceramic lamps of the Abbasid/Fatimid period



Ajlun Castle



Funerary stela at Khirbet Al Dharieh



Jerash ruins

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The fellows participants in the Kennedy School's Mid-Career Master's in Public Administration degree programme, or the Master's in Public Health degree programme at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), as suited to their professional needs. The 10-month fellowship includes tuition and fees, an initial adjustment allowance, individual health insurance, housing and a one-time book allowance.

Candidates should possess the following qualifications:

1. At least seven years of substantial professional experience in the fields of health, income security or social services.
2. At minimum, a bachelor's degree and a demonstrated ability to perform well in a rigorous, interdisciplinary academic programme.
3. English proficiency sufficient to meet Harvard standards, as demonstrated by a TOEFL score of 600.
4. Ability to achieve major positions upon their return in government or voluntary sector organisations.

* Please note: Candidates to the HSPH should possess an M.D. and will be required to take the GRE exam. To be considered for funding from this institute, completed applications and official test scores must be submitted by Jan. 10, 1994.

Interested candidates should send a request for an application either for the Kennedy School of Government or the School of Public Health. Candidates should also include a current typed resume to:

Tessa Rowland
Fellowship Director
Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East
John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 U.S.A.

Kohl begins business visit to China

BEIJING (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl arrived in Beijing Monday with a large group of senior German businessmen for a visit expected to highlight China's policy of rewarding diplomatic cooperation with business deals.

Mr. Kohl, making his first visit to China since its bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 1989, will tour Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou during his six-day trip. He held two-and-a-half hours of talks with Premier Li Peng during which the two leaders proclaimed themselves happy that Sino-German links were "back on the track to normal development," foreign ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin told reporters.

"The two countries are highly complementary in their economies, and there are great potentials for the development of economic relations," Mr. Wu quoted Mr. Li as saying. While German officials have

said Mr. Kohl expected to raise the issue of human rights, neither the Chinese nor the German official spokesman had any information on whether this had come up Monday.

The German group includes 40 top executives as well as the ministers of economics, posts and communications and research and economic cooperation.

Mr. Kohl's visit is expected to result in a number of major contracts for German firms. Diplomats in Beijing say China may use the trip to award a \$416 million deal for an underground railway in Guangzhou to a German consortium led by Siemens A.G.

One German business executive travelling in Mr. Kohl's party said he believed the sub-way deal was basically set, although the two sides were haggling over important details.

German and Chinese offi-

cials say some 12 agreements will be signed Tuesday, including major deals for the Chinese purchase of more Airbus aircraft as well as German power stations and railway wagons.

China said last week further agreements were expected on iron and steel projects, transport, energy, the chemicals industry, machinery, electronics, telecommunication and environmental protection.

Bonn joined other Western capitals in denouncing the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown but has played its cards carefully since China began its latest round of high-speed growth in 1992.

Germany has kept its profile low and concentrated on business while other large Western countries have found their links bedevilled by political problems ranging from the Sino-British row over Hong Kong to French weapons sales to rival Taiwan and U.S. human rights accusations. Mr. Kohl repeated Bonn's

pledge not to establish official links with nationalist-ruled Taiwan or sell it weapons. Mr. Wu said Mr. Li welcomed this position as "an important foundation which makes the development of bilateral relations possible and sustainable."

The economic relationship is not without strains. China, which does not count reexports through Hong Kong in its trade figures, says it has a trade deficit with Germany, but Bonn says overall trade is sharply in Beijing's favour.

China says from January to September it exported \$2.68 billion worth of goods to Germany and imported \$3.98 billion worth of German goods — increases of 61.4 per cent and 60.7 per cent respectively over the same 1992 period.

Business leaders travelling with Mr. Kohl include Siemens boss Heinrich von Pierer and Daimler-Benz chief Edzard Reuter.

Belgian industry hit by 24-hour strike

BRUSSELS (R) — Much of Belgium's industry was paralysed by a 24-hour strike Monday in protest against austerity measures planned by the government.

Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene said the government would nevertheless press forward with its social plan, which cuts social benefits to reduce Belgium's budget deficit.

"I will succeed. It is important for the country to succeed," Mr. Dehaene said on Belgian radio RTBF.

The government has not yet responded to the strike, possibly fearing public comment would exacerbate tensions with the unions.

A spokeswoman for the socialist trade union FGFB/ABVV told Reuters that the metal, steel and petrochemical industries had been particularly hard-hit by the strike.

Buses, trams and metros came to a standstill because of the protest action and there had been a limited work stoppage in banks and hospitals, the spokeswoman said.

Antwerp and Ghent ports in northern Belgium were also paralysed. "No ships are going in or out," said a harbour official from Antwerp, Europe's second-biggest port after Rotterdam.

The strike was called by the Christian Democrat and socialist trade unions, which together have about 2.5 million members. It is the first of many protests over the next month to force the government to back down on its social plan.

The socialist trade union pulled out of negotiations with employers and the centre-left government last month to draw up a new social plan, saying employers were being favoured.

The protest action culminates in a general strike on Dec. 10, coinciding with a European Community heads of state summit in Belgium, which holds the rotating EC presidency.

Big five Japanese steelmakers suffer heavy losses in first half

TOKYO (AFP) — The five biggest Japanese steel companies incurred heavy losses in the six months to September, reflecting stagnant demand for steel from other industries, the companies have said.

The firms announced their first pre-tax losses since 1987 when they had suffered from the sharp appreciation of the yen.

World leader Nippon Steel Corp. incurred the biggest-ever loss of 16.7 billion yen (\$159 million) in the first half while the others — Kawasaki Steel Corp., Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., NKK Corp. and Kobe Steel — suffered almost record losses.

Despite their restructuring efforts — including temporary lay-offs and salary cuts — business results were deteriorating, analysts said, forecasting that recovery in the steel industry was unlikely by September next year.

Nippon Steel said that the 16.7 billion yen pre-tax loss followed a pre-tax profit of 14.1 billion yen a year earlier. Sales fell by 10.7 per cent to 1.1 trillion yen, including 233 billion yen in exports reflecting a fall of 22 per cent.

"Orders overseas remained sluggish, and domestic shipments fell sharply, beginning with the manufacturing sector," the company said in a statement. "The yen rose markedly against the dollar."

Nippon Steel announced that it would slash salaries of company executives by 15 per cent from the current level following a cut of 10 per cent in October last year.

The company had said earlier that profits in the second half would barely recover, expecting a pre-tax loss in the full year. "The business condition is too severe to predict the future even in the short term," a company spokesman said.

Last month, Nippon Steel said that it planned to reduce white-collar jobs in its steel production division by 4,000 or 40 per cent from the current level, during the next three years.

"Sales in the second half will be much worse than the first half," Kenichiro Yoshida, an analyst for Nikko Research Institute, said. "No one can exactly predict how much longer they have to suffer losses."

Analysts also forecast that sales in the first half next year would be depressed further, adding that some steelmakers might have to close some blast furnaces.

Nippon Steel said that sales of steel fell by 11 per cent to 878 billion yen, and sales of iron and crude steel fell by 18 per cent to nine billion yen. Sales from its engineering division also fell by eight per cent to 149 billion yen, while other sales were down by 14 per cent to 24 billion yen.

Kawasaki Steel said that it suffered a pre-tax loss of 8.31 billion yen, reversing a pre-tax profit of 4.01 billion yen a year earlier. Sales fell by 6.7 per cent to 522.3 billion yen.

Sumitomo Metal Industries said that it had incurred a pre-tax loss of nine billion yen, reversing a pre-tax profit of 3.3 billion yen a year earlier. Sales edged down by 1.1 per cent to 508 billion yen.

For the full year to March, Kawasaki forecast its pre-tax loss of 28 billion yen on sales of one trillion yen.

Kobe steel said that it suffered a pre-tax loss of 8.16 billion yen, reversing a pre-tax profit of 7.08 billion yen a year earlier, sales fell by 5.8 per cent to 545 billion yen, with exports up 8.9 per cent to 104 billion yen.

NKK said it suffered a pre-tax loss of 15.4 billion yen, reversing a pre-tax profit of 6.3 billion yen a year earlier. Sales in the first half fell by 11.2 per cent to 537.3 billion yen.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Personal affairs will require more attention and effort than you had expected to invest at present. The minor change of script announced by co-workers need not change your overall course of action.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider well the ideas that come to you today for they can seem to be drastic by are just what you need in order to make your routines exciting.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A money issue may seem to be difficult but therein lies the seed to greater abundance for you so accept and look for the gem in the rubble.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A change in a partnership relationship or an association can react very much to your advantage if you are on the qui vive for new activity.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A different approach to whatever your activities can be a change for the better so don't think you are losing out but accept the new gracefully.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A friend can suggest how you can make a talent you possess can work more to your advantage so listen closely and try this new system out.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about the many and varied points of difference between what your family likes

and your responsibilities in the outside world and don't cross them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A hunch and your considered judgment are at loggerheads today and yet it is possible to harmonise them so you can get the best from them both.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have some business perplexity with a business person but if you look at the situation from the money angle and let your family know about it, it is easily solved.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think over the many and varied personalities in the outside world who can be helpful to you and then discuss with most talented the way you can best succeed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Keep your attention on your work today and don't allow a secret anxiety to keep you from doing those things which will increase your assets.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Consider the various options you have for a good time in the future and don't be swayed in another direction by a demanding friend and you make the right choice.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your home is the centre of your activity today despite some public activities in which you think you should engage so quietly back up family.

Bahrain banks acquires leading U.S. music firm

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The Bahrain-based investment bank Investcorp has acquired the U.S. Camelot Music Inc. for an undisclosed sum, Investcorp said in a statement.

Investcorp said Camelot is the third largest specialty retailer of recorded music in the United States, and that it has 368 stores in 34 U.S. states selling various home entertainment products including music.

Camelot, with annual sales of around \$420 million, operates in a market worth \$10 billion — expected to rise to \$14 billion by 1998, according to sources familiar with the deal.

More than half of Camelot's sales are generated by catalog sales, they said. Generally it maintains a more extensive inventory than its competitors, including older titles that are still relatively popular.

The company was acquired from its 70-year-old founder and owner Paul David.

Investcorp specialises in acquisitions of retail businesses. It aims to hold the companies for around five years before selling them through a public flotation, to an outside bidder or to an internal management team.

Its recent acquisitions include Germany's clothing group Mondy, Britain's Thorn Lighting and Italy's luxury goods company Gucci. Other U.S. holdings that it acquired are Saks Fifth Avenue, Tiffany and Co., Mueller Co., and Peebles Department Stores.

Formed in the 1980s basically by Arab oil financiers, Investcorp is an international investment bank. It is the brainchild of Nemir Kirdar, an Iraqi banker.

Kazakhstan introduces new currency, dumps roubles

ALMA-ATA (R) — Kazakhstan introduced a new currency Monday but it was difficult to find and many shops were closed as people sought to dump worthless roubles.

The tenge, worth 500 Soviet-era roubles and pegged by the central bank at 4.7 to the dollar, was due to replace large-denomination rouble banknotes Monday. But the new banknotes were difficult to find.

Smaller denomination roubles were to be withdrawn from circulation later in the week.

Kazakhs, who can change a maximum 100,000 roubles (\$84) this week only, grumbled about rising prices as they queued for bread and milk in the capital Alma-Ata.

"Of course we hope things will get better, but they do not look very good now," said pensioner Ismail Abdaimov. "I have just spent 250 roubles for a loaf of bread. Last week I would have paid 50 roubles."

Neighbouring Uzbekistan, in a move coordinated with Kazakhstan, is bringing in temporary coupons to supplement its old roubles.

Both countries are abandoning the rouble with some re-

luctance. They are bitter at Russia's tough terms for allowing them to use its currency and resentful at the way they have been forced to take their own monetary path.

The tenge will be a fully-fledged permanent currency.

"The new currency is being printed in Germany," said Galina Khachinyan, a scientist. "They have a stable currency. Maybe that means our currency will be stable as well," she said.

"Of course it would have been better to stay in the rouble zone, but Russia set such tough conditions that we did not really have a choice," said Lina, a pensioner who did not expect to see her tenge banknote until next month.

Russia had demanded that other countries deposit gold or convertible currency at the Russian Central Bank as a pre-condition for supplying new Russian roubles.

Commercial kiosks and large shops in Alma-Ata were closed Monday as shopkeepers worked out what prices to charge once the new currency arrived.

Hotel exchange booths were waiting for supplies of tenge. It was not immediately clear why their arrival had been delayed.

Most people expected to receive the new banknotes at work rather than from a bank. Some crowded into foodshops to snap up what goods there were, clutching wads of small denomination old rouble notes.

These will cease to be legal tender at the end of this week under the terms of a decree issued by President Nursultan Nazarbayev last Friday.

Western cigarettes, which sold for 15,000 roubles Sunday, cost 50,000 Monday. One pensioner asked 100,000 roubles for a bottle of vodka. "I have to get hold of some money so that I can change it for tenge," she said.

The rouble, about to be consigned to history, fluctuated wildly against the dollar. Ten days ago, street traders asked 2,500 or 3,000 roubles per dollar. By the weekend, the rate had fallen to 25,000, but Monday a few street traders offered 5,000.

The tenge was still not available on the streets. "Come back tomorrow," said one young Kazakh trading across the road from the national parliament. "We will give you one tenge per dollar."

British business asks for help to boost competition

HARROGATE, England (R) — British businessmen called on the government and the European Community (EC) Monday to curb the power of Brussels and help industry boost competition.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said business was fighting a rising tide of legislation and regulation from the EC while grappling with recession on the continent and a fragile economic recovery in Britain.

"Compared with the rest of the world we have become a slow growth area," CBI president Michael Angus told the annual conference.

He called for an extension of the single market, curtailment of the power of Brussels and its "excessive zeal for centralisation" and said politicians should resist the attempt to impose even more regulations on business.

The CBI was unable to deliver its message directly to

European Commission President Jacques Delors, who cancelled a scheduled appearance because he was ill.

But in a speech delivered in his absence, Mr. Delors told business leaders their drive for improving competitiveness should not focus too heavily on costs, a strategy he said threatened jobs.

"Competitiveness should not depend on low pay," he said. "Competitiveness is some-

thing we should be striving for in order to be able to pay high wages, to provide the social protection our society needs and to increase our standard of living."

Mr. Delors said hardship and suffering brought by shrinking growth and millions of jobs lost had brought a growing sense of disillusion with the role of Europe.

"There is a misguided belief spreading that the pursuit of

domestic agendas is the way to solve problems," he said.

The CBI is pressing for a freeze on new taxes, which it fears the government could resort to in its annual budget later this month to plug a £50 billion (\$75 billion) annual budget deficit.

It also wants a cut in interest rates, now at six per cent, to ensure what it believes is fragile economic recovery in Britain is not overturned.

Peanuts



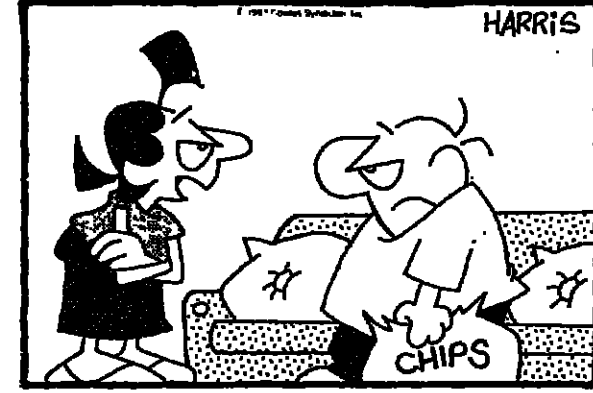
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

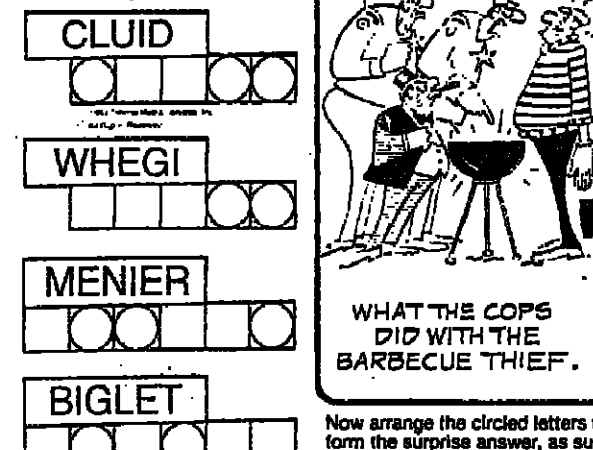


THE BETTER HALF

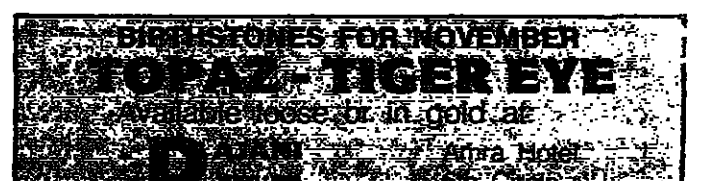


JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)



THE Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgovan

ACROSS

- 1 Silvery fishes
- 2 Butresses
- 3 Natural height
- 4 Mexican dish
- 5 Sleepwear
- 6 Shaded walk
- 7 Lode yield
- 8 Greek letter
- 9 Truck
- 10 Vessels for tea
- 11 Cashiers
- 12 Social engagement
- 13 Ballet wear
- 14 Tint
- 15 Pile to the brim
- 16 Kin of shims
- 17 Most disgusting
- 18 Corporate VIP
- 19 Thai native
- 20 Approves
- 21 Snake
- 22 Conclashes
- 23 Honeat
- 24 Island group
- 25 Mountainward
- 26 Veggie
- 27 Machinery
- 28 Eepy
- 29 Old silence
- 30 Not precise: var
- 31 Native: suff.
- 32 Cut
- 33 Multimar, at times
- 34 Oriental
- 35 Football teams
- 36 Speaker system
- 37 Rapes
- 38 Tranquilizes
- 39 Elongated
- 40 Most sensible
- 41 Frost's "Fire and
- 42 Make good
- 43 Certain Indians
- 44 Tournament positions
- 45 Beluga delgnt
- 46 Maugham's "Cakes and —"
- 47 Awaken
- 48 Venezuelan city
- 49 Dictatorial
- 50 Italian port
- 51 Records once more
- 52 Hindered
- 53 Eases
- 54 Cate
- 55 paron
- 56 Spar
- 57 Night sound
- 58 Overcharge
- 59 Addict
- 60 Apple or cherry
- 61 Sault — Marie
- 62 Blvd.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

- 1 Saddle feature
- 2 Purplish red
- 3 Addis Ababa's land: abey
- 4 Straggled instrument
- 5 Stumblies
- 6 Teeter-totters
- 7 Reiterates
- 8 nutter
- 9 Arabesque
- 10 Butt
- 11 Raids

Hoechst earnings plunge

FRANKFURT (R) — German chemical giant Hoechst A.G. has reported a plunge in profits in the first nine months of this year and said it would cut its dividend payout. At the same time the chemicals industry association issued a gloomy new forecast for the whole sector. Hoechst said group pre-tax profit dropped by 39.9 per cent to 924 million marks (\$548 million) in the nine months. Earnings in the third quarter alone fell even more sharply, down 64.8 per cent to 143 million marks (\$85 million). Hoechst's parent company made a loss on core operating activities in the nine-month period and the company said the outlook for the rest of the year was bleak.

The German Chemical Industry Association (VCI) expected 1993 to be the industry's worst year since World War II. It said 1994 would also not be a good year for the industry, which has been suffering from global recession and from German health care reforms that have cut the price of drugs. Hoechst, too, was not optimistic, saying: "Altogether the profit situation in the group will not change by the end of the year. 'We expect a seasonal improvement in our American pharmaceuticals business during the last few months of the year,' but no recovery in demand is expected yet in Germany. Hoechst Group sales in the first nine months slipped to 33.7 billion marks (\$20 billion) from 34.2 billion (\$20.3 billion).

Dubai aluminium smelter studying rise in capacity

DUBAI (R) — Dubai's state-owned aluminium company is considering boosting output capacity to expand sales to Europe but is not in a hurry due to depressed global market, a company official said Monday.

Mohammad Al Abbar, vice president of the Dubai Aluminium Company Ltd. (Dubal), said the feasibility study is looking into boosting production capacity by 100,000 tonnes a year.

"The idea is under study now. We are not sure how long the study will take, but we are not really in a rush because the aluminium market in bad shape," Mr. Abbar told Reuters.

He said estimates of the project costing \$150 million were not accurate. "We are

still looking at costs and market prices."

He said Dubai's current capacity was 245,000 tonnes of aluminium and that this year the smelter has been producing slightly above the capacity, but would not give details.

Asked why Dubai was considering expansion plans when the international aluminium market was in recession, he said: "It is a good time to plan for the future."

"We are expecting 1994 to see some improvement in the aluminium market," he added, but did not elaborate.

A report issued in New York on Nov. 10 by analyst Stewart Specter said 1994 will likely see a fall in Western aluminium production as well as cuts in Russian output and a recovery in worldwide aluminium demand.

European Community (EC) foreign ministers last week paved way for negotiations on quantitative limits on Russian aluminium imports at the urging of recession-struck EC producers after temporary quotas expire at the end of this month.

The EC is worried that Russian aluminium was being dumped on European markets and costing local jobs.

Mr. Abbar said the market problems were "affecting everybody. But we can survive better than anybody else because we have low costs compared to other countries."

He said aluminium smelting in the oil-rich Gulf was economical due to low energy and labour costs.

The plant Sunday added a new power generation facility to further help cut energy

costs.

Mr. Abbar said the Far East was now the main market for Dubai, but the company was trying to expand sales in Europe where taxes are imposed on major exports from the Gulf of low-cost industrial products.

An explosion rocked Dubai's plant on Oct. 27, but production was back on stream in a few hours, Mr. Abbar added.

Dubal had said in July that it produced 124,000 tonnes of aluminium between January and June this year, the same as the first half of 1992.

Dubal and Aliba in Bahrain are the only two aluminium smelters in the GCC. Together they have a capacity to produce 700,000 tonnes of aluminium.

Iran has embarked on a project to build a 220,000-tonnes capacity smelter while Saudi Arabia and Qatar are planning to set up aluminium plants.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
JORDANIAN BANK GROUP - AMMAN - JORDAN				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR NOVEMBER 15/11/1993				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
AMMAN BANK	46,562	180.000	179.000	178.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7,270	31.150	31.150	31.000
CALDI AMMAN BANK	1,250	31.150	31.010	30.010
BANK OF JORDAN	19,580	4.350	4.350	4.150
JORDAN POSTAL INVESTMENT BANK	4,760	1.900	1.900	1.910
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	35,397	4.000	4.000	4.000
THE JORDANIAN BANK	51,780	5.900	5.900	5.920
JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL BANK	36,788	3.110	3.100	3.090
AMMAN JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	700	4.000	4.000	4.000
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	5,580	4.700	4.700	4.700
JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	15,918	4.500	4.500	4.500
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	62,612	1.700	1.700	1.700
AMMAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	5,700	4.250	4.250	4.250
WILLAMSHAW INVESTMENT BANK	20,182	2.170	2.170	2.170
JORDAN INSURANCE	3,850	3.800	3.800	3.850
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	4,970	3.410	3.410	3.390
RELIANCE/PEACE INSURANCE	4,800	4.750	4.800	4.800
AMMAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	2,900	4.000	4.000	4.000
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	28,044	2.370	2.350	2.340
UNITED DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	1,942	1.240	1.250	1.250
AMMAN TELECOMUNICATIONS	9,111	4.800	4.800	4.800
AMMAN TELECOMUNICATIONS	9,111	4.800	4.800	4.800
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	5,219	2.500	2.500	2.510
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	5,219	1.630	1.630	1.580
JORDANIAN PUBLIC FOUNDATION / AMMAN	3,178	14.500	14.500	14.500
JORDANIAN PUBLIC FOUNDATION / AMMAN	9,410	14.500	14.500	14.500
UNITED KENDAL BAY & COMPANY BODIL	44,788	2.170	2.160	2.150
AMMAN INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & BROKERAGE	7,023	2.660	2.660	2.650
AMMAN TRADING & INVESTMENT	1,200	1.750	1.750	1.750
ATTACHMENT CO. JORDANIAN INVESTMENT	77,822	3.030	3.000	2.980
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	10,664	9.900	9.900	9.900
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	6,400	7.600	7.600	7.600
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	6,400	7.600	7.600	7.600
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	1,472	7.350	7.350	7.350
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	25,700	3.250	3.250	3.250
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	7,155	3.700	3.700	3.680
THE JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	4,374	2.150	2.150	2.150
AMMAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	52,870	0.450	0.450	0.430
AMMAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	15,444	0.350	0.350	0.350
AMMAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	5,282	1.380	1.380	1.340
AMMAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	19,575	10.180	10.180	9.950
AMMAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	765	1.150	1.150	1.150
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	2,915	0.420	0.420	0.400
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	1,432	0.420	0.420	0.400
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	1,432	0.420	0.420	0.400
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	645	6.550	6.450	6.410
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	17,241	1.270	1.270	1.270
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	3,200	0.400	0.390	0.400
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	8,090	0.140	0.130	0.130
AMMAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	1,915	2.500	2.170	2.150
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	26,495	5.200	5.180	5.100
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT				
GRAND TOTAL		774,244		
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET 84670				
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET 1,30 72376				

Iran's multi-billion-dollar organisation to divest some assets

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A powerful Iranian welfare organisation with multi-billion-dollar assets will sell off or close money-losing enterprises in its far-flung empire, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) has reported.

The state-run agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Mohsen Rafiqdoust, head of the Foundation for the Disabled and Deprived, as saying his organisation had decided on the move in light of the present economic status of the country.

Mr. Rafiqdoust told IRNA that the foundation was "responsible for keeping its companies active and profit-making."

He said "when a company cannot conform with the foundation's policy, it will be either sold or dissolved."

For more than a decade the foundation has kept money-losing enterprises running, passing losses on to the government, which was forced to foot

the huge subsidy bills for raw materials imported from abroad.

The organisation also made a killing by buying subsidised hard currency, importing goods, and selling them at inflated prices. It pocketed the profits, and the government was left with the subsidy bills.

But the foundation has been forced to face new realities under regulations that do away with subsidised hard currency for all but the most needed

goods such as pharmaceuticals.

The foundation has been blamed for causing many of the distortions in Iran's oil-rich but faltering economy.

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets		
Currency	New York Close 12/11/93	Tokyo Close 15/11/93
Sterling Pound	1.4925	1.4931
Deutsche Mark	1.6848	1.6832
Swiss Franc	1.4890	1.4887
French Franc	5.8670	5.8680**
Japanese Yen	105.69	105.79
European Currency Unit	1.1378	1.1565**

Source: Reuters. ** Data for 15/11/1993.

Eurocurrency Interest Rates				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.12	5.43	5.46	5.68
Sterling Pound	5.75	5.62	5.44	5.44
Deutsche Mark	6.25	6.18	5.87	5.43
Swiss Franc	4.44	4.44	4.18	3.93
French Franc	6.61	6.68	6.25	5.75
Japanese Yen	2.45	2.31	2.18	2.16
European Currency Unit	7.06	6.93	6.56	6.18

Source: Reuters. ** Data for 15/11/1993.

Precious Metals				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz
Gold	373.50	7.35	Silver	4.52
				0.100

Source: Reuters. ** Data for 15/11/1993.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.6396	1.6448
Deutsche Mark	0.4136	0.4157
Swiss Franc	0.4676	0.4699
French Franc	0.1188	0.1194
Japanese Yen	0.6580	0.6615
Dutch Guilder	0.3686	0.3704
Swedish Krona	0.0422	0.0424
Italian Lira	0.0422	0.0424
Belgian Franc	0.0422	0.0424

Source: Reuters. ** Data for 15/11/1993.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3181/91	1.6855/65
1.8922/32	1.8922/32
1.4905/15	36.04/08
5.8695/95	1662.64/1
105.84/94	8.2017/21
7.3315/15	6.7265/65
81.493/13	373.75/74.25
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One ounce of gold	

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Bosnian Muslims retake town

SARAJEVO (R) — Soldiers of the Muslim-led Bosnian army have reoccupied the central Bosnian town of Fojnica, a United Nations military spokesman said Monday.

Muslim troops withdrew to the outskirts of Fojnica at the weekend and advancing Bosnian Croat forces had Sunday appeared poised to take the town, some 50 kilometres west of Sarajevo.

U.N. military spokesman Colonel Bill Aikman told reporters that the Bosnian Croat HVO militia now held the central Bosnian town of Bakovici but Muslim-led Bosnian troops had reoccupied Fojnica Sunday.

The U.N. has expressed concern at the fate of nearly 600 patients at two mental hospitals in Fojnica and Bakovici.

Canadian U.N. troops had been prevented by Muslim units from patrolling Fojnica, but had been allowed to deliver supplies to the hospitals.

Col. Aikman said the U.N. refugee agency would try to deliver two trucks of blankets

and other relief supplies to the area Monday for civilians who may be trapped in Fojnica. However, Fojnica appeared virtually empty of civilians and several hundred had been seen heading for the nearby town of Visoko.

Bosnian Croat forces launched an artillery and tank attack against Muslim army positions in and around the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf Monday, U.N. military sources said.

The sources told reporters that the assault began shortly after 6 a.m. (0500 GMT), with several rockets landing south and east of the town.

Twenty minutes later, artillery joined in and then three tanks engaged Muslim units on a nearby ridge.

A helicopter was thought to be directing the Croat HVO militia artillery fire.

The British U.N. base on the edge of Gornji Vakuf took two artillery rounds within the perimeter, the sources said.

The British peacekeepers are reviewing an emergency

plan to evacuate non-essential staff from the Gornji Vakuf base and to help any refugees fleeing the fighting.

A statement from the Bosnian Croat military authorities, carried by the Croatian News Agency (HINA), accused the Muslims of launching attacks in the Gornji Vakuf area.

In Sarajevo, Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic said he saw no possibility of a multi-ethnic state in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"A Serb, Croat, Muslim Bosnia-Herzegovina as a common state with a common presidency... is not possible," Sarajevo Radio quoted him as saying.

Bosnia's Muslim-dominated parliament has already rejected an international plan to divide the country into three ethnic states.

Mr. Izetbegovic also pledged to carry on fighting. "We have to fight for Bosnia-Herzegovina, because we have a right to it. We have paid a very high price."

The Muslim army has notched

up a string of successes against the Croats in central Bosnia in recent months, the latest being the capture of the town of Vares earlier this month.

The Croat attack on Gornji Vakuf came after a weekend marked by HVO advances against the Muslim-led Bosnian government army in central Bosnia.

The HVO took the town of Bakovici Saturday.

The Bosnian army also faced an offensive by Serb troops approaching Olovo, northeast of Sarajevo in Central Bosnia.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) said Sunday that Serbs had captured three Muslim-held villages in the last two days around Olovo, the U.N. has reported Serb shelling of the town.

U.N. relief officials say a few hundred civilian survivors in Olovo, some of whom fled advancing Serb troops in the hinterland, had been living in grim conditions and no aid had been brought in for two months.



Sri Lankan Air Force personnel watch over assault to end a rebel siege of a military base in the north (AFP photo)

25 Sri Lankan rebels die inside base

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (Agencies) — Sri Lankan troops hunted down and killed 25 Tamil rebels who infiltrated a northern military base after breaking the siege of another base, a military spokesman said Monday.

"By Sunday evening we had killed 25 terrorists we caught inside the camp," he said.

The rebels, disguised as soldiers, had come into the Palaly Airbase in the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula with rocket-propelled grenades and light machineguns to destroy attack aircraft.

About 15 more rebels are believed to have fled from the camp, avoiding capture.

"There are no more of them in the camp. We have cleared the area," the spokesman said.

Five soldiers and 12 rebels were killed in a clash inside the camp Saturday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have been fighting since 1993 for a homeland for Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils, who say they are persecuted by the Sinhalese who form the majority of the population of 17 million.

On Sunday military officials told reporters taken to the Palaly Airbase that government troops had broken a rebel siege of the Pooneryn Base in the peninsula.

Elite army commands and infantry units made helicopter and amphibious landings at the weekend close to the base on the shores of Jaffna Lagoon and linked up with the defenders by Sunday afternoon, the officials said.

They reported government losses of 250 dead with another 500 men missing in action after about 1,000 Tigers attacked the camp Thursday.

The 1,250 troops that rushed to the relief of Pooneryn met little resistance after moving in from two beachheads, officials said.

The military said the rebels lost more than 400 of their men, including a number of leaders, in the biggest attack in the 10-year-old conflict.

An LTTE statement in London said 400 government troops and 100 rebels had been killed in the attack on Pooneryn. It said rebel forces had captured five boats, two tanks, several heavy weapons,

50 light machineguns and 400 rifles.

It also said the Tigers had told the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) they would hand over the bodies of 300 soldiers and sailors Sunday.

But the ICRC informed the Defence Ministry Sunday that the bodies had decomposed and the ashes of the dead would be sent to the nearest army camps.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in the conflict so far. Several attempts at peace talks, the last in 1990, have failed.

Sri Lanka President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga Monday appealed for calm.

In a message broadcast over the state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp., Mr. Wijetunga urged people not to be provoked amid an uneasy calm as hundreds of wounded survivors were being brought to the capital Colombo.

The radio also sent out an SOS to doctors and surgeons to treat hundreds of wounded soldiers who survived the attack on the northern Pooneryn military complex.

U.S., South Korea begin joint wargames

SEOUL (R) — U.S. and South Korean troops began a six-day joint military exercise Monday to test logistics and communications in the face of North Korean warnings that war games this week could spark a war.

A South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman said the exercises had begun but Seoul wanted to keep the spotlight off the manoeuvres code-named "Foal Eagle."

"We have nothing to say. All we can say is that the exercise has started, and there are no details," he said.

A U.S. military official said U.S. troops had been flown into South Korea to participate in the rehearsal in regions south of the capital, Seoul.

Foal Eagle rehearses the support functions of running a war, in contrast to the annual Team Spirit exercises when troops simulate frontline action.

"Less than 2,000 additional U.S. troops, mostly from the Pacific and the United States, are participating in the games," the U.S. military official said. "We are not arranging credentials for the press to observe them."

North Korea, which brands all U.S.-South Korean military exercises as rehearsals for invasion, denounced Foal Eagle as a dangerous gamble at a time of heightened tension.

"It is clear that the war exercises to be staged in such an atmosphere are a dangerous play with fire designed to increase the tensions on the Korean peninsula and, furthermore, to light the train of another war, a nuclear war," a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency said Sunday.

South and North Korea are still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a ceasefire. No peace pact has been signed.

Tension on the peninsula has increased in recent weeks because of the North's steadfast refusal to let international experts examine its nuclear facilities to allay international fears it is developing atomic weapons.

South Korea and its allies believe the North is close to perfecting a nuclear-capable missile that could hit any target in South Korea and western Japan.

President Bill Clinton warned last week that an act of war against South Korea would be seen as an act of war against the United States, which has some 36,000 troops in the South.

A former Pentagon official has advocated staging a pre-emptive strike on the suspected nuclear weapons plants.

Meanwhile, the State Department is strongly urging President Bill Clinton to accept North Korea's offer for new international inspections of its nuclear facilities in exchange for cancellation of the on-going joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises. The Washington Post reported Monday.

The paper quoted department officials as saying such a deal would allow inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to take a fresh look at several sites of the Yongbyon nuclear complex. From which they have been barred by North Korean authorities since early this year.

But the Defence Department and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff firmly opposed such a deal. The Post added, because it did not include a North

Korean commitment to authorize IAEA inspections on two sites suspected of containing radioactive wastes from past work on nuclear arms.

The Clinton administration has dismissed the possibility of launching air strikes on North Korea's nuclear facilities. Time magazine reported Sunday in its current issue.

Mr. Clinton told NBC Television's Meet The Press a week ago that North Korea could not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons.

Asked whether the United States would be willing to stage a pre-emptive strike to prevent North Korea from developing a nuclear bomb, Mr. Clinton replied: "I don't think I should discuss any specific options today."

Time said it had learned that administration officials "have studied — and dismissed — the possibility of launching an air strike to wipe out the Communist regime's nuclear programme."

The report provided no further details, except to note that analysis had shown that an attack would release unacceptable levels of radioactivity in East Asia.

Russian Communists gain in election race — poll

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Communist Party is now among the top three parties in the race for December's parliamentary elections following a big jump in its popular support, according to an opinion poll.

The Itogi Current Affairs Show on Russian Television said a poll it commissioned showed the Communist Party of Russian Federation running third. Support for the party had doubled during the past week, according to the poll released Sunday night.

The Communist's sudden jump could reflect public disappointment over President Boris Yeltsin's decision last week not to hold early presidential elections in June.

Parties supporting Mr. Yeltsin continue to lead in the race for the elections, but still have relatively small support, according to the poll results.

The pro-Yeltsin Russia's Choice had 12 per cent of voter support, while another pro-Yeltsin party, the Bloc of Three, was in second place with 8 per cent, the poll indicated.

Economic Minister Yegor Gaidar, leader of Russia's Choice, was the most popular leader in the election race with 11 per cent of support, according to the poll.

The Communists got the support of 7 per cent of the 1,200 people polled in 15 Russian cities — a doubling in support, the poll said. No margin of error was provided.

The Communists continue to enjoy the support of officials and others who thrived under the Soviet state. Some older people, anxious for the order and stability of the Soviet system, also back the Communists.

Many Russians are unhappy

about the scale and impact of Mr. Yeltsin's reforms to move the country to a free-market system. The economy has been buffeted by soaring inflation, growing unemployment and other hardships.

Political scientist Igor Klyamkin, commenting on the poll's results on the programme, said Mr. Yeltsin's decision to back away from early presidential elections was significant.

"Hardly had the president renounced his public promises of holding early presidential elections (when) the rating of political outsiders ... rose to an all time high," since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, he said.

More than 1,500 hopefuls are trying their luck for 225 constituency seats in the lower house of Russia's parliament to be elected next month, electoral officials said Monday.

Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolai Ryabov was quoted by Interfax News Agency as saying a total of 1,505 aspirants had applied to stand for the state Duma constituency seats in the Dec. 12 poll.

A final list of candidates will be published later this week after millions of public signatures necessary to support the candidacies have been computed.

Mr. Ryabov said that 127 of the candidates had up to now been registered as eligible to stand and processing was continuing.

The 225 constituency seats will be decided on a first-past-the-post basis in Russia's first post-Soviet elections.

The other half of the Duma's 450 seats will be decided by a vote on party lists in which 13 political groups have been cleared to take part.

Puerto Ricans vote for commonwealth

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Puerto Ricans Sunday narrowly defeated a drive to turn the Caribbean island into a full-fledged American state, voting in a plebiscite to remain a U.S. commonwealth and crushing an independence bid.

With nearly 100 per cent of the vote counted, the commonwealth forces had 48.4 per cent of the vote to 46.2 in favour of statehood, a margin of only 38,000 of the 1.68 million votes cast.

Just over four per cent voted for independence, a slightly lower rate than expected.

Voter turnout was 73 per cent, a high turnout had been expected to favour pro-Commonwealth forces.

The campaign in favour of remaining a commonwealth appealed to voters' emotional feelings about their Puerto Rican identity and to their fear that statehood would mean an end to job-producing tax breaks.

"This vote showed that the

people want to preserve the Spanish language and our flag... that we want to preserve our culture and our Olympic team," said Miguel Hernandez Agosto, leader of the pro-commonwealth Popular Democratic Party.

The victory was especially sweet since the pro-statehood camp had the force of the government behind it, he said.

The results were a defeat for pro-statehood Governor Pedro Rossello, 49, a U.S.-educated pediatric surgeon who put his considerable personal popularity and prestige on the line to bring the long-simmering debate on Puerto Rico's status to a head.

"The people have spoken and I must obey," Dr. Rossello said in a concession speech that avoided the words "loss" or "defeat."

Although statehooders lost, they did far better than the last vote on Puerto Rico's status in 1967. In that election, the statehood option won 39 per cent to the commonwealth

forces' 60 per cent. The new election results were unlikely to put to rest the often bitter divisions over the future of the island, which has been a U.S. possession for nearly a century.

"We took a giant step toward this goal of statehood. It is a fight that will continue," said Dr. Rossello, not abandoning the ideal of having Puerto Rico become the first state to enter the union since Alaska and Hawaii in 1959.

Independence leader Ruben Berríos also claimed victory since his party managed to prevent either side from crossing the 50 per cent threshold.

"This shows this country does not want to be annexed by the United States, nor be a colony of the United States," he said.

Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory after the Spanish-American War in 1898, and its people were granted citizenship in 1917. The island became a commonwealth or "free associated state" in 1952.

Threats traded on Japan political reform bill

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ruling and opposition parties traded threats Monday, clouding prospects for an 11th-hour compromise deal on Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's key political reform package.

Survival of Mr. Hosokawa's fragile coalition depends on the bill's enactment. When Mr. Hosokawa came to power in August, he pledged to adopt the long-delayed measures by year-end.

The promise means he must clear the bills through the lower house by Friday, the day he is due to leave for Seattle to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

The upper house needs about a month to deliberate on the package. Parliament is due to recess on Dec. 15, although, technically, Mr. Hosokawa can extend the session.

If Mr. Hosokawa decides to force a vote in the lower house, a vexed opposition could resort to delaying tactics in the upper house.

The ruling coalition was the first to use a threat Monday. Coalition leaders decided to cut short debate on the reforms in a special lower house committee, setting the stage for a possible forced vote.

Most panel members from

the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) boycotted the session.

LDP headquarters officials said the leadership would revoke the committee membership of two LDP dissidents who took part.

Angered by the government's unilateral decision to cut short the panel's deliberations, LDP Secretary-General Yoshiro Mori twice walked out of a separate high-level dialogue with a coalition negotiator.

"Threatening a committee vote is like sticking a knife at our throats," a furious Mori said. He threatened to suspend talks with the alliance's Vitaro Ichikawa unless the coalition retracted its decision to hasten a vote.

Mr. Ichikawa and Mr. Mori have been haggling since Nov. 5 over details of their rival plans.

Both sides have agreed to introduce British-style single-seat districts, combined with proportional representation.

This format would replace a discredited system of multi-seat constituencies. The current system often leads parties to field several candidates in one constituency, with each vying to spend more on voters.

A set of Oswald's prints found on rifle that killed JFK

NEW YORK (R) — Previously unknown photographs of a set of fingerprints taken from the rifle that killed John F. Kennedy after his murder were discovered 30 years after his murder and identified by one expert as those of Lee Harvey Oswald, the producers of a major TV documentary on Oswald said Monday.

But the producers of Frontline, the public television documentary series, said that while their expert, former New York police specialist Vincent Scalese, positively identified the photos as Oswald's prints, a second expert insisted the pictures were not clear enough to make an identification.

The photographs could be key to proving beyond any doubt that Oswald fired the shots that killed Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963 — a matter that has been the subject of debate among some experts even though the official Warren Commission investigation named Oswald as the lone assassin.

The documentary airs Tuesday night on PBS.

Frontline, during a two-year investigation into Oswald's life, found the photos at the home of the Dallas police lab technician, Rusty Livingston, who developed photos of the latest prints found on the rifle that killed Kennedy.

The photograph was taken in 1955 and was of a group of civilian air cadets in New Orleans, which included a 15-year-old Oswald and Ferrie

He had made several sets of photos of prints found near the trigger of the rifle, keeping one for himself. Experts at the time said the sets they examined were not clear enough to make an identification and instead based their identification on palm prints found near the rifle's barrel.

There was a week's delay in announcing the identification of the palm prints because the FBI and Dallas Police did not coordinate their efforts and this led some conspiracy theorists to claim that the FBI put the palm prints on the rifle after Oswald was dead.

The Oliver Stone film JFK fuelled that speculation by showing a scene in which an unidentified man put the murder weapon in Oswald's dead hand.

Frontline's documentary concludes that Oswald was Kennedy's killer and that there is no evidence of his having been part of a conspiracy although it also discovered a photograph of him in a group with David Ferrie, a shadowy figure some conspiracy theorists have linked to a supposed anti-Castro or mafia plot to kill Kennedy.

The photograph was taken in 1955 and was of a group of civilian air cadets in New Orleans, which included a 15-year-old Oswald and Ferrie

who was an instructor in the programme. Frontline said there was no other strong evidence to link the two afterwards or before and no evidence to link Ferrie with Oswald in Dallas.

Frontline said it also discovered information indicating that the CIA debriefed Oswald after he returned from the Soviet Union where he had defected as a U.S. Marine, but could not find a transcript of the meeting.

Producer Mike Sullivan said the debriefing was important because it might be a document still in the agency's possession that would have to be released in accordance with a law requiring assassination materials to be made public.

Until the Frontline discovery of a set of photographs of latent prints found on the trigger guard of the rifle, the only prints of Oswald's on the rifle known to exist in a identifiable condition were the palm prints on the rifle's barrel.

The palm print was lifted from the barrel, but when the FBI took the rifle to Washington, it stayed in Dallas with Dallas Police and it took days before that was discovered.

Another set of prints — the ones on the trigger guard — had been found on the rifle, but the FBI ruled that they were worthless for identifica-

tion purposes. The Frontline expert, Scalese, told the programme the photos had 18 points of identification with Oswald's fingerprint — about a dozen more than needed for a positive identification.

But after Scalese's discovery, the producers showed the photos to a former FBI expert, whom it did not name, and he said the pictures were not clear enough.

An investigation of Kennedy assassination files released last summer has found that the FBI and CIA withheld and destroyed evidence, as government officials focused more on protecting their agendas than getting at the truth.

In a lengthy report in its current issue, Newsweek said Sunday that the CIA withheld information from the Warren Commission regarding its own attempts to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro and that the FBI knew Oswald was dangerous.

Newsweek conducted an investigation with the Washington Post and CBS News of thousands of pages of secret cables, memorandums and phone records which were released by the National Archives in August.

The article reports that the Warren Commission was cre-

ated to sell the lone-gunner theory — which holds that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy in November 1963 — rather than to determine the truth behind the assassination.

Nonetheless, the investigation concludes it is unlikely that Kennedy was a victim of a Soviet or Cuban-sponsored conspiracy, and that despite the duplicity that permeated government channels in the weeks following the assassination, the Warren Commission's findings were probably correct.

Newsweek reports the commission was the brainchild of Deputy Attorney General Nick Katzenbach, who wrote in a memo that "the public trust must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin."

The files also quote FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, who opposed a federal commission, as telling President Lyndon Johnson days after the assassination "the thing I am most concerned about... is having something issued so we can convince the public that Oswald is the real assassin."

Among incidents documented in the files was the destruction of a note from Oswald to an FBI agent which demanded that the agency stop harassing his wife, Marina.

Abortion pill inventor wins U.S. agreement

NEW YORK (R) — The developer of the French abortion pill RU-486 told Newsweek he had won a preliminary agreement to allow a group of scientists to make and distribute the drug in the United States. Dr. Etienne-Emile Baulieu, the researcher who developed RU-486, told the magazine in its issue available Monday that he had reached preliminary agreement with Kousseil-Udell and its parent company, German chemical giant Hoechst AG, allowing him to set up a pharmaceutical firm to make and distribute the pill as soon as it receives U.S. government approval.

President Bill Clinton, shortly after taking office in January, directed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to review the Food and Drug Administration's ban on RU-486. The ban was instituted during the administration of former President George Bush on the urging of anti-abortion groups.

FDA Commissioner David Kessler in April said Kousseil had agreed to license the drug to a non-profit research group as a step in eventually marketing the drug in the United States.

But while the French company seemed willing to enter the U.S. market, Hoechst appeared reluctant to let it do so.

Romance and canned soups

DUBLIN (R) — Romance is on special offer somewhere between the canned soups and frozen peas of a Dublin supermarket. The store is handing out red roses, wine, chocolates, passion fruit and oysters to encourage single shoppers to get to know each other.

Thursday nights, start of the Irish weekend. Shop assistants encourage introductions and a guitarist serenades shoppers from the croissants display. Said one woman: "This brings a wonderful edge of shopping. I think I will come every Thursday. The only trouble is I have already got a husband, so this has all come a bit late."

Exorcism for the queens' bankers

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth's bankers are hoping to exorcise a headless ghost which has spent four centuries in purgatory haunting their central London premises. The Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported that Britain's most eminent Catholic family, headed by the Duke of Norfolk, will hold prayers for their ancestor Thomas Howard, who was beheaded in 1572 for treason by the first Queen Elizabeth. Howard's ghost, dressed in Elizabethan costume, has often been seen flitting around Courts Bank in the Strand. A bank director will join the prayers. "Prayers can only help. It is the least we can do for poor Thomas," the family said.

Swordplay at the palace

LONDON (R) — Police arrested a knife-wielding man who lunged at a mounted ceremonial guard outside horse guards parade, one of central London's tourist attractions. Queen Elizabeth's life guards used swords to disarm the man and police arrested him. "I cannot think of another occasion when the life guards have had to use the ceremonial weapons like this," a Ministry of Defence spokesman said. The unnamed man faces charges of wounding a police officer, criminal damage and possession of an offensive weapon.

Dog shoots man

ROME (R) — A hunter was shot by his dog while stalking game in northern Italy, a Rome television station reported. It said the dog stepped on a rifle, triggering a shot which hit the man in his left leg. The wounded hunter, who was not named, underwent surgery and was told he should be back on his feet in two months.

Soccer bounty plot

LONDON (R) — A tabloid offered a \$14,780 bounty for each member of the Polish team if they beat the Netherlands — to get the English team into the World Cup finals. The Daily Mirror said it was also promising the English team £10,000 (\$14,780) for each of the seven goals by which they need to defeat San Marino. "If our double incentive does the trick, England will qualify for next year's big event in the United States," said the Mirror. England's players will be asked to pass the cash to charity, but the poorly-paid Poles can keep their money, the Mirror said.

Graf falls to Martinez at Slims of Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Spain's Conchita Martinez snuffed Steffi Graf's 45-match winning streak, defeating the top-ranked German 6-3, 6-3 in the final of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia Sunday.

Martinez broke Graf's serve three times in the match and was helped by 34 unforced errors by Graf, who had trouble with her backhand throughout the match.

It was the Spaniard's first victory against Graf in 10 career meetings.

The straight-sets loss was Graf's second in 77 tour matches this year. She won 66 consecutive matches between June 1989 and May 1990.

Her only other loss this year was to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the final in Hamburg in May.

"Against me, she's played unbelievable all the time, and I (usually) couldn't do anything," Martinez said. "Today she made mistakes, but I also played good and stayed concentrated the whole match."

Graf broke Martinez at 2-2 in the first set, but the Spaniard broke Graf in the next game and again at 4-3, hitting a drop-shot winner on break point to go up 5-3.

Serving at 2-2, 15-40 in the second set, Graf attempted a drop shot that Martinez tracked down and turned into a backhand winner that gave her all the advantage she would need.

"She made very few unforced errors," Graf said, "and she was patient and hit with a lot of depth so it was difficult for me to do anything."

Graf was playing in her first tournament since undergoing surgery to remove bone spurs from her right foot in early October.

Prior to her surgery, Graf had won seven consecutive tournaments, including the French and U.S. Opens and Wimbledon. Her 45-match winning streak included a walk-over against Judith Wiesner at the U.S. Open.

"To tell you the truth, when I got into the tournament I didn't expect to play great tennis," Graf said Sunday. "I was using it as warmup to get in shape for the (Virginia Slims Championships) in New York this week."

In winning her fifth tournament title of 1993, Martinez also prevented Graf from setting a single-year record for earnings.

Graf would have broken Monica Seles' record of 2,622,352, set in 1992, with a victory Sunday.

With Sunday's \$75,000 runner-up prize, her yearly total stands at 2,578,837, entering the Slims Championships.

The women's record for consecutive matches won is 74 by Martina Navratilova between January and December, 1984.

In the doubles championship, Katrina Adams of Houston and Manon Bollegraf of Netherlands defeated Martinez and Larisa Neiland of Latvia 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (9-7). Adams and Bollegraf shared a \$45,000 prize and Martinez and Neiland received \$22,500.



Over 25,000 runners cross the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge at the start of the 1993 New York City Marathon Sunday (AFP photo)

Espinosa, Pippig win New York Marathon

NEW YORK (AP) — Soaring autumn temperatures sent at least 55 runners to hospitals as Mexico's Andres Espinosa and Germany's Uta Pippig won the New York City Marathon.

The unseasonably warm weather — a record 72 degrees (22 degrees Celsius) — caused 27 people to be taken to hospitals from the course and another 28 from the finish area, said Gus Pappas, a spokesman for New York's Emergency Medical Service.

Two runners evacuated from Central Park by helicopter after ice baths failed to revive them and were upgraded to stable condition Sunday night. They were identified as Peter Zielinski, 26 of Derby, Conn., and Chris Muesel, 35, of Washington, D.C., according to Larry Dugan, a spokesman for Bellevue Medical Center.

Two of the top women runners, Kim Jones of Spokane, Wash., and Anne Marie Letko of Glen Gardner, N.J., were among those hospitalized and released. Jones had an asthma attack near the 17th mile and dropped out.

"I thought I was going to die," Jones said in a statement issued by race officials. "It was pretty bad."

Letko, eighth in the 10,000 metres at this year's World Championships, was treated for slight dehydration.

Espinosa, a runner-up the past two years, won in 2 hours, 10 minutes and 4 seconds, the sixth fastest time in the world this year, and American runners finished a surprising second and fifth.

Bob Kempainen, 27, of Minnetonka, Minn., was second and Keith Brantly, 31, of Ormond Beach, Fla., was fifth, both with personal bests.

The 30-year-old Espinosa, who trained in the high altitude near Mexico City, was ready for any weather conditions.

"I was well-prepared for the heat or the cold," he said.

Espinosa was the surprise second-place finisher behind countryman Salvador Garcia in 1991. Then he placed second again last year, nearly 1 1/2 minutes behind Willie Mitolo of South Africa. This time, Espinosa earned the \$20,000 first prize and a new Mercedes-Benz Sedan, worth about \$42,500.

Pippig, 26, running the race for the first time, led nearly all of the final 20 miles (32 kilometres) in winning the women's division in 2:26:24, below her previous career best of 2:26:53.

No American-born man has won the New York City Marathon since 1979, when Bill Rodgers earned his fourth consecutive triumph. No American-born woman has won since Kim Merritt in 1975.

Sunday's performances were superb considering the temperature reached 70 degrees (21 degrees Celsius) and the humidity was 61 per cent when the lead runners finished the 26-mile, 385-yard (42.2-kilometre) race through the city's five boroughs. Later, the temperature hit a record high 72 (22 degrees Celsius).

Kempainen, a medical student at Minnesota, was timed in 2:11:03, the fastest of the year by an American. It was more than a minute below his previous best of 2:12:12 in finishing second in his marathon debut in the Twin Cities Marathon in 1991.

It was the best finish by an American in this race since Ken Martin also was second in 1989.

Bulgaria and China continue world weightlifting domination

MELBOURNE (AP) — Yotov continued Bulgaria's domination of men's events at the World Weightlifting Championships Monday night, sweeping all three gold medals in the 70-kilogramme division.

Yotov, world champion in 1991, snatched 155 kilograms (341 pounds) and lifted 187.5 (413 1/4) for a total of 342.5 kilograms (255 pounds).

Ergun Batmaz of Turkey took the silver medal overall, ahead of Olympic bronze medalist Andreas Behm of Germany.

Batmaz took silver in the snatch ahead of Vasil Vasilev of Bulgaria, who failed on his three attempts at the jerk when hampered by a knee injury.

Behm took silver in the Jerk ahead of Kim Hak-Bong of South Korea.

Yotov's task was made easier by the absence of Israel's Milotian of Armenia, who beat him for the gold medal in the 67.5-kilogramme class at the 1992 Olympics.

Milotian is one of only two current Olympic champions not competing in these championships.

"I didn't care whether or not Milotian was here," Yotov said. "I was ready to win against any opponent."

Bulgaria now was won three of the four divisions contested so far in the men's competition. China has won three of the four women's classes.

Yotov's victory followed earlier triumphs by his compatriots Ivan Ivanov and Nikolai Oeshalov.

"It has been a very good championship for Bulgaria," Yotov said. "I put in a lot of work myself and this is the best result of my career."

Yotov did not make a third attempt at the snatch, which would have given him a possible world record, preferring instead to save his strength for the clean-and-jerk.

"I didn't come here to set world records, I am here to win," he said.

Sun Caiyan of China earlier clinched her third successive world title, winning gold medals in all three sections of the women's 59-kilogramme class.

Sun, a 19-year-old physical education student from Liaoning province in northern China, became the third straight Chinese women's champion at the event, following the victories of Chen Xiaoming in the 54-kilogramme class and Lin Xihua in the 50-kilogramme class.

Sun, stocky and poker-faced, won the 56-kilogramme class in both 1991 and 1992.

She hoisted 97.5 kilograms (215 pounds) in the snatch and 120 (264 1/2) in the clean-and-jerk for a total of 217 1/2 — 15 kilograms (33 pounds) more than her nearest rival.

All three lifts will be recognized as world records in the new weight class.

Sun won convincingly despite being troubled by a painful back, injury before and during competition.

Gergena Kirilova of Bulgaria swept the silver medals. Maria Christoforidou of Greece, the current European

and former world champion, took three bronze medals.

Christoforidou said before the competition that there were suspicions among rival lifters of drug abuse by the Chinese competitors, a claim that was rejected Monday by Chinese head coach Wen Xixi.

When has a simple explanation for the success of the Chinese women, who won 26 of the 27 golds at the last world women's championships at Varna, Bulgaria.

"We have a large population and 10,000 women lifters," he said. "It is natural that we should produce some of the top athletes."

The championships are the first event in which world records can be officially recognized in new weight classes introduced earlier this year by the International Weightlifting Federation.

Lifting in 10 men's divisions and nine women's divisions continues at the Royal Exhibition building through Nov. 21.

World Cup tension mounts in Europe

LONDON (R) — The 1994 World Cup jigsaw will be completed Wednesday as 16 teams battle for the last nine places in the finals on one of the most tense and frenetic nights ever of European international soccer.

Sixteen months of qualifying competition have produced only four of Europe's 12 finalists. But the destiny of the other eight spots will be decided in a coordinated feast of footballing drama.

And the last of the 24 finalists will be known a few hours later when Argentina and Australia come head-to-head in the second episode of their two-leg playoff in Buenos Aires. The first leg was a 1-1 draw.

Argentina are one of three former World Cup winners still fighting to qualify for next year's historic finals in the United States — the first staged outside Europe or South America.

Italy, winners in 1934, 1938 and 1982, and England, winners in 1966, are the other two — with England likely to become the second former world champions to miss out.

Two-time winners Uruguay have already failed to qualify at the expense of Bolivia, who joined another of the former world champions Brazil and Colombia from South America.

England's slim chances of being in next month's World Cup draw in the gambling resort of Las Vegas rests on beating minnows San Marino by seven goals in Bologna and Poland delivering an unlikely victory over the Netherlands in Poznan.

England manager Graham Taylor is clinging positively to their outside chance. "Everybody has a dream and mine is obviously qualification. It is now a very distant dream but it's not over," he said.

Italy have an easier task to claim their American ticket, needing a draw at home to Portugal in Group 1 where Switzerland are also vying for

their first trip to the finals since 1966.

Switzerland require a victory by two goals over Estonia to be certain, although 1-0 could be enough depending on the other match result.

European champions Denmark are also in danger of failing to qualify, needing a draw against Spain in the hot bed of Seville to deny their opponents a place — unless the Republic of Ireland fail to win in neighbouring Northern Ireland.

If Denmark win, and they are unbeaten in their previous 11 qualifying games, then a draw would also see the Irish in their second successive finals.

The most complicated of Wednesday's permutations is in Group 4 where four teams — Belgium, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Wales — are still in contention for the two places.

Belgium need a draw at home to Czechoslovakia, while a point for Romania in Wales would be enough for them.

Victory for the Welsh and the Czechs and Slovaks should see them through.

If Belgium win, it will be the end of the road for the Czechoslovak team — World Cup finalists in 1934 and 1962. They break up into the separate teams of the Czech Republic and Slovakia once their World Cup campaign ends.

In Group France need just a draw at home to Bulgaria to join Sweden as qualifiers, but after their shock 3-2 defeat at home to Israel last month that is not a forgone conclusion and it promises to be a tense night at the Parc Des Princes.

The four European qualifiers include two surprises in first-time finalists Greece, and Norway — making their first appearance since 1938. Russia and Sweden are the other two sides to have booked their places.

The automatic qualifiers, holders Germany and hosts the United States, have also been joined by Mexico, Africans Nigeria, Cameroon and Morocco, and Saudi Arabia and South Korea from the Asian Confederation.

As if Wednesday's World Cup drama was not enough, world champions Germany are in friendly action in Cologne — against Brazil.

Argentina playing to win

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Argentina will play Australia "with intentions of winning," coach Alfio Basile said Friday, even though a goal-less draw would be enough to send his team into the World Cup finals.

Argentina and Australia played to a 1-1 draw last month in the opener of their two-game qualifying series. The winner in Wednesday's rematch here advances to the 24-team World Cup finals next year in the United States.

Argentina would also advance if the match ended 0-0, with goals away from home being the tiebreaker. That is a slight advantage for a team that survived a must-win match in group play just to reach this series.

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Following are game scores and standings of the football teams up to Nov. 10, 1993.

JUNIORS II

Nashashibi/Ebbini	2	VS	Pepsi	1
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SENIORS

American Kitchen	3	VS	Foxboro	1
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MIDS

ASC	1	VS	Intervet	0
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FINAL STANDINGS

SENIORS

1	Austrian Airlines	15
2	American Kitchen	14
3	Foxboro	9
4	Champions	8

MIDS

1	Intervet	21
2	Peugeot	13
3	Al-Hikma	11
4	ASC	6

JUNIORS II

1	Junghans	20
2	Milano	17
3	Nashashibi/Ebbini	11
4	Pepsi	3

JUNIORS I

1	El-A Cigogna	18
2	Modern Schools	10
3	El-Zay	9
4	UPS	8

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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FORGET THE ADAGE

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 7 3
♥ V W J
♦ A K Q 7 6
♣ 8 6 5 3

EAST
♠ K 3
♥ A Q 10 6
♦ A J 8 5 3
♣ 10 9 4 3

SOUTH
♠ 8 5 4
♥ 9 Q 10 7
♦ 9 8 2
♣ A 7 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 NT
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Follow the play on this hand from an interclub match in France. Which bridge rubric should have been ignored?

West's jump to two no trump was a testament for the united suits. We must assume that, sitting East, we would not have let the enemy play in four spades. We would have sacrificed in five hearts and gone down one trick — cheap insurance.

Let's see what might happen in four spades. Declarer wins the ace of clubs and ducks a spade to East's ten. The normal heart return is ruffed in dummy and, after cashing the ace of trumps, declarer starts running diamonds. Since East must follow to four rounds of the suit, declarer is able to discard both clubs as East ruffs. In all declarer will score one trump, four ruffs, four diamonds and the ace of clubs — 10 tricks.

At the table things went a little differently. Instead of blindly obeying the maxim "second hand low" and following with the deuce of trumps at trick two, West produced the king. Declarer could not afford to duck because West would be able to cash two club tricks.

But after winning the ace of spades, declarer could not attempt to run diamonds because West would ruff the second round. So declarer continued a trump. East's ten won, and the defender quickly cashed the queen of spades. When the smoke cleared, declarer had scored one spade, five diamonds and the ace of clubs, but only two ruffs. Down one.

PHILADELPHIA JURASSIC PARK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD CONCORD '1' Harrison Ford — in The Fugitive Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' The Prince Of Tides Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15	PLAZA Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Aida Riad in Three On The Road Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Nabli Al Mashaj Theatre presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalal, Haasan Al Shaar, Fuad Shomali In addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day	Nabli & Hafeez Theatre ANLAN THEATRE The political comedy WELCOME ARAB SUMMIT Daily 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday English synopsis available
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Daily warns Turkey against attacking rebels

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian newspaper Monday warned Turkey against launching military strikes on Kurdish rebels hiding out in Iran. "Any action taken against our sovereignty and national security will face a strong reaction from Iran," the Jomhuri Islami daily said. Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller "should be strongly warned not to overstep her limits or she will have added to her problems," it said. Ms. Ciller, in a meeting Friday in Ankara with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Boroujerdi, proposed that Iran and Turkey root out Kurdish rebels in the Iranian region of Maku, close to the border with Turkey. Otherwise, Ms. Ciller warned, Turkey would act on its own to protect its interests. The prime minister did not elaborate, but the Turkish news media said she had called for unilateral cross-border operations against the Kurds. Jomhuri Islami blamed the Kurdish rebellion in Turkey on "Ankara's weaknesses and abnormalities in its policies."

UAE bans imports of hubara bustard

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has banned the importation of hubara bustards, a favourite among falconers in the Arabian Peninsula, the national news agency WAM reported Monday. The federal cabinet approved a recommendation by the higher environment committee banning the import of dead or live bustards, the agency said. "The decision is in line with international agreements on trade in endangered creatures," it said. Bustards are widely used in the UAE and other parts of the Arabian Peninsula by falconers, enthusiasts of a traditional and popular sport in the Gulf. But several Gulf states have banned the hunting of birds and animals after alarming reports on damage to wildlife. The UAE president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, is financing a multi-million-dollar project at Al Ain Zoo to breed endangered animals and birds and release them back into nature.

Eban sues U.S. town for broken hip

REDWOOD CITY (AP) — Israel's former foreign minister, Abba Eban, has filed suit against the San Mateo Performing Arts Centre for unspecified damages after he fell from a temporary platform where he had been speaking, a newspaper reported. Mr. Eban, 78, suffered a broken hip and was disabled for several months after the fall on Jan. 9, the San Francisco Examiner reported in Monday's editions. Mr. Eban fell when "he stepped off a temporary platform that had been erected on the stage," according to the suit, filed Friday in San Mateo county superior court. The accident resulted from "negligent, careless, willful or wanton misconduct in creating or maintaining the dangerous and defective conditions," the suit alleges. The San Mateo Union High School district, on whose property the centre is located, and San Mateo County also are listed as defendants. Redwood City is 35 kilometres southeast of San Francisco in Silicon Valley. Mr. Eban was hospitalised for several days at Mills Hospital in San Mateo and then transferred to hospital in New York, according to San Francisco attorney David Baum. Mr. Eban lives in New York City.

Anti-malaria campaign in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese government Monday announced plans to launch a nationwide anti-malaria campaign that will cover all nine states in the country. The cabinet decided to launch the "emergency" campaign on Sunday, the official SUNA news agency said, after ministers heard a report on the spread of malaria in central Sudan from federal Health Minister Captain Gwak Deng. Last week, a government-owned daily, Al Inqaz Al Watani, reported that 2,879 people died of malaria in one hospital alone in the space of a month and said the disease had taken the form of an epidemic. A federal government official refuted the report, saying it was "irresponsible," but no correction was made in either of the government newspapers. Munir Abarou, head of the epidemic department at the federal ministry in Khartoum, has asserted that "the rise in malaria was seasonal" and that "it is under control."

Afghan minister appeals to Iran for fuel

NICOSIA (R) — Afghanistan's foreign minister appealed for more fuel supplies from Iran on Monday, but the Tehran Times said requests for economic aid were "absurd" from a country whose rulers kept fighting each other. Tehran Radio said President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani met Foreign Minister Hidayat Amin Arsalala and voiced concern about "deterioration of security and stability" in Afghanistan. Mr. Arsalala asked for more fuel aid from Iran to overcome a shortage in the coming winter, it said. The radio quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying Tehran would help Afghanistan's reconstruction but did not say if he specifically replied to the fuel request. The Tehran Times criticised Afghan leaders for engaging in a "futile and devastating civil war" since overthrowing Kabul's communist government in April 1992. "Don't you think that your request for assistance in the rehabilitation of the Afghan economy appears rather absurd when the principal political groups in Afghanistan... are busy planting mines... instead of plowing fields and growing wheat?" it said. The paper, considered close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Afghan leaders should realise that no government in the world is prepared to give financial help to a country "whose leaders can think of nothing but the devastation of their country and the massacre of their citizens."

China air crash killed 11 — agency

BEIJING (R) — At least 11 people were killed and 24 others injured in Saturday's crashlanding of a Chinese MD-82 airliner in a field near the western city of Urumqi, according to a Beijing-run news service. The China Northern Airlines plane, on a flight from Urumqi to the northeastern city of Shenyang via Beijing, was carrying 101 people. The China News Service (CNS) said in a report seen on Monday the plane had ditched in a field just outside Urumqi, breaking into pieces on impact and later catching fire. "So far it is known that 11 people have died in the accident," the CNS report said. Airline and civil aviation officials contacted on Monday said they were still unable to confirm the fatalities or make any comment on the cause of the accident.

American missionary kidnapped in Philippines

MANILA (AP) — An American conducting linguistic research was seized by six gunmen on a remote island in the southern Philippines, authorities reported Monday. Sulu provincial police said Charles Walton, 61, of Chicago was abducted Sunday night on the island of Pangutaran, 850 kilometres south of Manila. The kidnappers fled aboard two speedboats towards the southwestern island province of Tawi-Tawi and were chased by police in another boat, police said in a report. However, police gave up the chase because of bad weather and a shortage of fuel, the report said. Kent Hirschelman, director for public affairs of the summer institute of linguistics, said Mr. Walton has been doing linguistics research in the Philippines for 20 years.

Serbia foreign minister visits Libya

TUNIS (R) — Serbian Foreign Minister Vukobratovic is in Libya for talks, the official Libyan news agency (JANA) reported Monday. The Serbian minister was welcomed at his arrival in Tripoli by Libya's Foreign Minister Omar Al Montasser, it said. Libya and Serbia both have been slapped with U.N. sanctions for not complying with U.N. Security Council resolutions. Diplomats said Mr. Vukobratovic entered Libya through the land border with Tunisia.

Libya seeks Egypt's help on Lockerbie

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya sought Egypt's help on Monday in an effort to ease new U.N. sanctions clamped on Tripoli for its failure to yield suspects in the Lockerbie plane bombing.

"Egypt has always played a positive role in this issue and we expect Egypt to exert fresh efforts in this connection," Libya's Unity Affairs Minister Jomaa Al Fezzani told reporters after meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

Mr. Musa was not available to reporters for comment. Mr. Fezzani denounced as unjust the council's decision to impose fresh sanctions.

"It is unfair for the international community to besiege a country and order its people to go hungry for the mere fact that they want two suspects to stand for trial," he said.

He said Libya had offered several initiatives accepting the principle of trial.

Initial sanctions, including a ban on air travel to and from Libya, were imposed in 1992. New measures which take effect on Dec. 1 freeze Libya's funds abroad and bar the import of equipment used in oil transport terminals and refineries. Oil exports are still permitted.

The aim of the sanctions is to get Libya to turn over the two suspects for trial in Britain or the United States.

The Middle East Economic Survey said the new sanctions would eventually erode Libya's oil operations.

The industry weekly, published in Cyprus, said the sanctions "do not impose any direct impediments on oil exports (but) the new restrictions on the supply of necessary components for oil export and refining facilities could eventually hamper these operations to a significant extent."

The main impact of the ban is expected to be felt in Libya's

refineries, here fires and machinery breakdowns are common, especially in older facilities.

Libya reopens border

Libya reopened its border with Tunisia Monday after a 24-hour closure to protest at the new sanctions, travellers and officials said.

"The traffic is normal today," a local official said by telephone from the Tunisian checkpoint of Ras Ajdir.

On Sunday, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported sit-in protests by local assemblies against the sanctions in Ras Ajdir, on the road to the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Similar protests were held at Umsaad, on the eastern border with Egypt.

JANA did not say explicitly that the borders were closed but the local assemblies, called "basic popular congresses," at the two border checkpoints are composed mainly of policemen and customs officials.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has for years made a practice of sealing his country off from the outside world for periods of protest against the policies of foreign governments, mainly the West.

With Col. Qadhafi in their midst, "roaring masses" of Libyans demanded that he pull Libya out of the United Nations and shut down its oil fields.

The Libyan leader responded enthusiastically in a speech broadcast Sunday on official Libyan radio, shouting: "This is the time of defiance, the time to be determined to win and the time to defend dignity, the future, history and honour."

Col. Qadhafi's appearance at Tajura east of Tripoli was taped a day earlier. The British Broadcasting Corporation, monitored the broadcast Sunday.

Iraq frees U.S. oilman

BAGHDAD (R) — American oilman Kenneth Beaty, sentenced to eight years in prison for illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait, walked free on Monday after 205 days in an Iraqi jail.

An Iraqi statement said President Saddam Hussein had ordered Mr. Beaty's release in response to a request from U.S. Senator David Boren and other prominent Americans.

Mr. Beaty, who is in his 50s and has heart problems, had been held since April. "I have been looking forward to this moment in the past 205 days in prison," he told reporters.

Mr. Boren, joined by a smiling Beaty at a Baghdad hotel before leaving for Jordan, said his visit was private and should not be interpreted as a shift in American policy.

"It has been announced by the government he will be accompanying me to Amman," he told a news conference.

"Having left a fine woman and two beautiful children that are anxious (and) who are waiting for Mr. Beaty's return... I know how happy they are going to be," he said.

Mr. Beaty, wearing jeans and a T-shirt, described the time he spent in Iraq as "a difficult experience" but said he was never mistreated. The way "doctors, staff, the prison treated me was excellent... I have no complaints whatsoever," he added.

Mr. Beaty, from Oklahoma, was originally charged with illegal entry and espionage but during his trial in May he was found guilty only of illegal entry.

He is the sixth foreigner President Saddam has freed in less than two months. Four westerners — three Britons and a Frenchman — remain in jail on illegal entry charges.

Mr. Boren, stressing the private nature of his visit, emphasised that no deal had been struck with the Iraqi government.

An Iraqi spokesman said President Saddam ordered Mr. Beaty's release after receiving a request from Mr. Boren and "several prominent American figures."

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Mr. Boren forwarded the request to Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, whom he met Sunday.

INA said it had "learned that the senator (Boren) ... was opposed to the war which (former U.S. President) George Bush waged against Iraq."

Indian jet in 'miraculous' landing in rice field

MADRAS (AFP) — An Indian Airlines Airbus jet carrying 259 passengers and crew made a "miraculous" emergency landing in a rice field in southern India Monday after running out of fuel on a domestic flight.

Medical workers rushed to the site to give first aid to several shaken people waiting around in ankle-deep mud, but said no one was seriously injured although some of the 247 passengers were buried to the floor during the emergency landing.

The jet, which had taken off from Madras, had been due to stop over at Hyderabad while on a flight to New Delhi, but had been forced to return back because of thick fog over the runway, R.K. Bhalla, the jet's chief pilot, said.

On its return flight, the aircraft began losing altitude about 100 kilometres from Madras, forcing Mr. Bhalla to land the jet near the town of Tirupati, in Andhra Pradesh, he said.

"Suddenly I found that there was a fuel shortage due to some technical problem and so I decided to make an emergency landing," Mr. Bhalla told reporters in Tirupati. Earlier



CELEBRATIONS: Palestinian scouts march in independence of the State of Palestine (AFP photo) Jericho Monday during celebrations marking the fifth anniversary of the declaration of the

FIS threatens French targets

PARIS (AFP) — Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has threatened to strike against French nationals and interests in a communiqué sent to AFP's headquarters in Paris on Monday.

The communiqué, dated Nov. 14 and written in Arabic, was signed by Abdul Razak Redjam, a spokesman for the group's executive council which went into hiding in spring 1992 after the military intervened to scrap the second round of a general election the FIS was poised to win.

Since then, armed fundamentalists have been waging a guerrilla war against the security forces and last month kidnapped three French consular workers in Algiers who were later released.

The French government retaliated last week by launching a nationwide crackdown against suspected Algerian fundamentalists and questioning about 100 people, including the head of an Algerian group close to the FIS.

The man, Jafar Al Houari, whose organisation the Algerian Brotherhood in France (FAF) is seen as a front for the FIS, was placed under house arrest Saturday and three other key figures were indicted.

In the authenticated communiqué, Mr. Redjam said,

without specifically naming France, "that those cooperating with a regime that has no other objective than to remain in power will be linked to the crime being committed against Algeria's people," and will have to suffer the consequences by seeing "their own nationals hit and their interests destroyed."

"The government of a country that calls for the respect of human rights and then goes on to arrest dozens of Muslim Algerians and provides material support to the fascists (in power) is the real party responsible for the death of its nationals," he said.

The communiqué went on to say that the FIS refuses any "negotiation, reconciliation or ceasefire with the coup leaders" and that only a "radical change" would be satisfactory.

According to rumours in the Algerian capital, authorities there are trying to establish contact with members of the FIS in order to open negotiations that could lead to fresh elections.

The government has not denied an Algerian newspaper report that a member of its dialogue commission has held preliminary discussions with a former FIS leader, Abdul Kader Hachami, held in preventive detention in Algiers.

'FIS founder freed'

An FIS founding member has been released by kidnappers who vowed to strike against fundamentalist extremists, the Al Khabar newspaper of Algeria reported Monday.

Mohammad Tijini Boujelkha, a mathematics lecturer at Algiers' Bab Al Zouar University, returned home on Sunday evening, the daily paper said, quoting "informed sources."

It gave no details of the circumstances in which Mr. Boujelkha was freed and did not say whether security forces had intervened.

Mr. Boujelkha was kidnapped on Nov. 8 after hooded and armed gunmen claiming to be police officers burst into his home late in the evening. His wife Asma told authorities that on Thursday she received an anonymous phone call telling her that her husband was in the hands of a group known as the Organisation of Free Young Algerians and that he was a traitor.

The organisation, which claimed to be anti-fundamentalist, surfaced almost two weeks ago, has vowed to "make supporters of those shedding the blood of Algeria's children pay the price for their action."

Police quiz Kashmir men after escape from shrine

SRINAGAR (R) — Police in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir were questioning four people on Monday who apparently escaped from Srinagar's besieged Hazratbal shrine.

Indian troops meanwhile killed 10 separatist militants in a rare incident in the Ladakh region of Kashmir, army officials in Jammu, the state's winter capital, said.

Police in Srinagar said 10 more militants had been killed in other parts of the troubled border state since Sunday.

Kashmir police chief Mahendra Sabharwal said one militant with a grenade apparently escaped from the Hazratbal shrine on Monday, the fourth to do so in two days. He was the 15th to leave the building since troops surrounded it on Oct. 15.

Three people, including a 55-year-old beggar, left the shrine on Sunday, Mr. Sabharwal said.

"There are hardliners among the people... who are not allowing the others to surrender," he told a news conference. "We have been told some militants want to surrender."

Indian troops surrounded the shrine by scenic Dal Lake

after intelligence reports said some of the militants were planning to desecrate its inner sanctum, which houses what Kashmiris believe is a hair from the Prophet Mohammad.

Mr. Sabharwal quoted the four who had come out of the shrine since Sunday as saying the relic was safe, but he added that the government planned to continue the siege to ensure that the sacred hair was not harmed.

Army officers privately say they laid the siege to a trap a top militant leader whom they mistakenly believed to be inside.

The army says there are up to 50 militants among some 80 people still holed up inside. On Thursday the militants won supplies of blankets and warm clothes, a sign they are preparing for a long stand-off with Indian troops during Kashmir's harsh winter.

The Kashmir high court directed the government to provide woollens and blankets to the civilians among those besieged.

The court's ruling appeared to be a setback for the government, which was embarrassed earlier by a similar directive to provide everyone in the mosque with food and water.

U.S.: Hizbollah may plan carbombs in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — U.S. officials said Monday that members of the Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalist organisation Hizbollah had arrived in Mogadishu and could be planning carbomb attacks on U.S. and U.N. forces in Somalia.

"We hear there's less than half a dozen of them from Lebanon or Iran," said one U.S. official who asked not to be named. The Hizbollah team allegedly included carbombing experts, he added.

U.S. officials say that hard-line followers of faction leader Mohammad Farah Aideded have links with Hizbollah (Party of God) and that the United States will hold General Aideded responsible if anyone uses carbombs against U.S. forces.

But Gen. Aideded's followers dismissed the report as an attempt by the United Nations to besmirch the name of their leader and to raise tensions in the capital.

Many Somalis also rejected it as crude propaganda, saying it was most unlikely that any Somali group would have links

with Hizbollah. Somalis are Sunni Muslims, not Shi'ites. "We don't even have contact with them (Hizbollah). The U.N. is generating this problem," said Abdi Aishir Kahiye, a member of Gen. Aideded's Somali National Alliance.

"Either the Americans have got their information from a wrong source or this is disinformation against Aideded," said Somali journalist Ali Musa.

The United Nations closed a bush airstrip outside the capital in August, saying Gen. Aideded was using it as a conduit to smuggle in weapons to fight the U.N. army.

It was later reopened and the normal traffic of qat, a stimulant leaf chewed by Somalis, started to flow again from neighbouring Kenya.

In September, the United Nations said Gen. Aideded had surface-to-air missiles which he could use against aircraft.

Three U.S. Black Hawk helicopters were later shot down and other aircraft were damaged — but all of them were hit by rocket-propelled grenades rather than anti-aircraft missiles.

A month after U.S. and other troops gave up a hunt for

Gen. Aideded to put him on trial for the murder of U.N. troops, Mogadishu is relatively quiet.

But banditry is on the rise. On Saturday, clan gunmen ambushed a truck convoy north of Mogadishu, killing about 15 people and wounding at least 19 others, U.N. military officials said.

On Sunday, about 10 Somalis attacked a convoy of three vehicles belonging to U.S. civilian logistics contractor Brown and Root in the capital.

U.S. soldiers were escorting the civilian vehicles, which broke through the ambush without casualties.

U.S. military spokesman Colonel Steven Rausch said the attack seemed to be motivated by clan rivalry.

Members of one clan were angry that the U.S. contractor was employing drivers from Gen. Aideded's Habbie Gedir clan, he said.

Such disputes recall the months before U.S. forces arrived last December to save the country from famine and anarchy.

COLUMN

Diana visits N. Ireland

ENNISKILLEN, Northern Ireland (AFP) — Princess Diana made a surprise visit to Northern Ireland Sunday to celebrate Remembrance Day with residents of Enniskillen, where a terrorist bomb killed 11 people on the same date in 1987. For security reasons her visit to Northern Ireland was kept secret until she arrived in this small town in County Fermanagh. Earlier in London, Buckingham Palace announced that Princess Diana, estranged wife of heir to the British throne Prince Charles, would attend ceremonies in memory of war dead with the royal family in London. The Princess of Wales, dressed in a black suit, laid a wreath at the foot of a monument erected originally to the war dead and later dedicated also to victims of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb six years ago. She also inaugurated a "cain for peace," a traditional pyramid of stones built on the banks of Lake Erne by young Protestants and Roman Catholics from the region. Six years ago, the princess visited victims of the Enniskillen attack alongside Prince Charles just two weeks after the bombing. She and the prince separated a year ago. In London, most of the royal family and thousands of war veterans braved biting cold and violent winds to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies in front of the Whitehall Cenotaph.

Deng is in 'superb' health

BANGKOK (R) — China's 89-year-old supreme leader Deng Xiaoping is in "superb" health and takes a daily walk for exercise, his eldest son said Monday. "My father's health is superb," Deng Pufang told a news conference in the Thai capital Bangkok. "He is a strong man who performs daily exercise by walking and playing bridge. His bridge talent is as the world champion level." Mr. Deng Xiaoping still monitors the political situation but spends most of his daily life in retirement as a normal citizen, Mr. Deng Pufang said. "He spends his time like other retired people because he believes the leaders of the younger generation are capable of leading China and replacing him for the task of developing the country," Mr. Deng Pufang also said he would like to take his troupe of disabled musicians, singers and dancers on a tour of Beijing's diplomatic enemy Taiwan. "As Taiwan is part of mainland China, I have always wanted to take the disabled people's art troupe to stage our show there," he said in answer to a question.

Woman accused of killing landlady over rent

SYDNEY (R) — A 55-year-old woman beat her landlady to death when she came to collect Australian dollars 840 (\$546) in rent, then dumped the body by the mailbox, an Australian court was told Monday. Barbara Joy Franklin pleaded not guilty to the murder of Joyce Coleman, 63, in Hobart, capital of the southern island state of Tasmania, in March last year. Prosecutor Damian Bugg told the jury that Ms. Franklin, who owed seven weeks' rent, beat Ms. Coleman to death in the lounge of her rented flat, then dragged the body to the building's row of mailboxes where it was later discovered by a neighbour. Blood stains found on Mr. Franklin's legs and on her bra were matched a sample taken from the body of her landlady, as did blood found on the curtains in the lounge of Ms. Franklin's flat and on the runners of the sliding front door. Neither the murder weapon nor the outer clothing Ms. Franklin was wearing at the time has been found.

Elton John helped Jackson, newspaper says

LONDON (R) — Elton John's superstar Michael Jackson is receiving treatment in Britain for a complete emotional breakdown from the doctor who helped British pop star Elton John beat drink and drug addiction, the Sun newspaper said Monday. The British tabloid said John had come to the rescue after a telephone call from actress Elizabeth Taylor, Jackson's close friend and one of the last people known to have visited the singer before he cancelled his world tour in Mexico Friday.

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